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Kidnapping by Christians deepens political crisis

Lebanese defence minister freed 3 hours after abduction

BEIRUT, Sept 13, (AP) Christian militiamen kidnapped Defence Minister Adel Osserian today and freed him three hours later under pressure from the Army amid a worsening political crisis that is threatening to reignite Lebanon's civil war.

Police said the kidnappers, members of the Lebanese Forces militia, released 83-year-old Osserian at 2:40 pm (1140 GMT) after the Army command threatened to storm an apartment building in which he was being held in the East Beirut neighbourhood of Ashrafieh.

He said the commander of the Lebanese Forces, Samir Geagea, received Osserian after his release and "apologised to him for the behaviour of the unruly militiamen."

"We denounce such acts in our areas, especially when they target a personality like Minister Osserian who is one of the heroes of Lebanon's independence," Geagea said in a statement broadcast by radio stations in East Beirut.

The silver-haired Osserian drove from East Beirut to the Alumni Club of the American University of Beirut in the city's Muslim sector for lunch after his release.



"The Jezzine people were worried about Deputy Serhal and they wanted me to work for his release," Osserian added.

He said his captors took him to a ninth-floor apartment in East Beirut's Ashrafieh district.

"They prepared coffee for me," Osserian told reporters. "As a matter of fact, I can say that I enjoyed meeting these people."

Warned

The Lebanese Forces have claimed that Serhal, a Maronite Catholic, was kidnapped by militiamen of Druze leader Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party at a checkpoint south of Beirut on Thursday as he drove to Jezzine.

They said Serhal was being kept at West Beirut's Bristol Hotel "against his will."

A manager at the Bristol, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged that Serhal has been staying there "incommunicado." But he would not give other details.

The Army ordered its 42,000 troops on alert after Osserian's abduction and warned the kidnappers to free him "at once."

Army troops and Lebanese Forces militiamen clashed in a brief firefight in East Beirut after the alert. Police said no casualties were reported.

Osserian's abduction heightened tension between Muslims and Christians amid a political deadlock in efforts to elect a new President.

Osserian was grabbed a few hundred metres (yards) from a sit-in protest staged by Serhal's supporters to demand his return to either Jezzine or East Beirut.

Protesters

"Return Deputy Serhal," the protesters chanted. They blocked traffic across the museum crossing which links Beirut's two sectors.

Serhal was among Christian deputies who boycotted a parliamentary session to elect a new President on Aug 18. They opposed the candidacy of Syrian-backed former President Suleiman Franjeh.

Iraq sets condition for New York meeting

Gulf talks adjourned

GENEVA, Sept 13, (Agencies) The UN brokered peace talks between Iran and Iraq recessed today after Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar invited both sides to continue the negotiations temporarily in New York next week.

But the Iraqi delegation issued a statement which suggested they agreed to attend the New York meeting only if a date for reconvening the talks in Geneva is fixed before both delegations leave the Swiss city.

Ambassador Jan Eliasson, who has been mediating the talks as the UN chief's personal representative since last week, earlier told a press conference that both sides accepted the invitation to meet with Perez de Cuellar on Sept 22 to continue their direct talks which would move back to Geneva later.

The Iraqi statement said its delegation "expressed the view that it is necessary, before the two delegations leave Geneva, to decide on a definite date for reconvening in Geneva, which will be binding on both sides."

"The Iraqi delegation emphasised that the party which leaves the date (for reconvening the talks in Geneva) indefinite will have to bear the consequences which may result from such an action."

"The Iraqi delegation agreed to New York on that basis and to attend one meeting there provided that the talks resume in Geneva on the agreed date," the statement continued. It added Eliasson was also informed that Azz cannot be in New York before the first week of October.

The statement was issued three hours after Eliasson met the press following a brief face-to-face meeting between the two sides which he chaired and which he said showed a "degree of co-operation which promises well for the future."

Eliasson said that both sides also committed themselves to continue to observe the ceasefire which took effect on Aug 20 after eight years of fighting that claimed an estimated 1.5 million dead and wounded.

He said reports from UN observers positioned along the (Continued on Page 4)

Bonn praises Iran and Syria

Released West German hostage Rudolf Cordes accompanied by his wife and German envoys left for home today one day after his 20-month ordeal in Lebanon ended. He declared "I feel I'm born again."

A German Air Force transport jet carrying the group took off for Bonn at 6:20 pm (1520 GMT).

Cordes was driven to the airport after a brief ceremony at the Syrian Foreign Ministry during which he was turned over to German envoys Wolfgang Schauble, State Minister for Chancery Affairs and Heinz Fielder, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East section.

Hugging his tearful wife tightly, Cordes was escorted by Syrian security officers to the Foreign Ministry and turned over by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

In Bonn, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told a cabinet meeting the government had paid no ransom and made no deal with the kidnappers.

Rejoicing

Kohl in a statement to his cabinet thanked Syria and Iran for helping gain the release of Cordes.

Kohl said that in the negotiations for Cordes' release his government adhered to the principles of international law and accepted no conditions.

Cordes said in Damascus: "I'm rejoicing for being a free man again. I feel I'm born again. It is as if I have been granted a new life. I am feeling proud, and I'm in a very good shape."

Cordes, 55, Beirut manager for the Hoechst AG pharmaceutical company, was freed

UK postal strike ends

LONDON, Sept 13, (AP) Union leaders called off the 13-day postal strike yesterday, but domestic and international service will remain disrupted for two weeks as workers wipe through a backlog of 150 million letters and packages, union and post office officials said.

"This has been an extremely damaging dispute for our customers," said Bill Cockburn, managing director of Royal Mail letters. "There is a mountain of letters."

(Continued on Page 2)



Arafat in talks with European politicians

STRASBOURG, Sept 13, (Reuters) Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat began talks today with European politicians despite protests from Jewish organisations.

Sharpshooters patrolled the rooftop of the European Parliament building as the 59-year-old chairman of the PLO arrived with a police motorcycle escort.

Visit

Earlier, about 500 Jewish demonstrators gathered at the gates, holding aloft a banner which read "Arafat assassin."

Arafat, who flew to a nearby military airbase from Paris, is paying a two-day private visit to Strasbourg at the invitation of Rudi Arndt, chairman of the 168-member Socialist Group of European Deputies.

He is expected to meet French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas tomorrow.

Wearing his traditional black and white headscarf, Arafat met senior socialist members of the 518-seat Parliament.

He was later to address the full Socialist group.

Strasbourg has one of the largest Jewish concentrations in France and Arafat's visit prompted rival poster campaigns in city streets by Jewish residents and local Arabs, mainly from Algeria and Morocco.

Socialists form the largest single group in the European Parliament. Representatives of Europe's communist parties and the ecologists' Rainbow group were allowed into the closed-door meeting, officials said.

Other deputies have said they will not meet Arafat and accused the socialists of endorsing terrorism by inviting him.

Diplomats say Arafat is trying to build up international support ahead of a key meeting of the Palestinian movement's parliament-in-exile, the Palestine National Council (PNC).

Some analysts say, Arafat aims at seizing the political initiative by offering recognition of Israel and a renunciation of violence in return for a Palestinian mini-state.

The idea of a land-for-peace formula is not new but for PLO supporters Jordan's withdrawal from the West Bank removed an important obstacle to setting up some form of Palestinian authority.

Israel has said it will stamp out any Palestinian government in the lands it occupied in 1967.

A meeting of French Socialists in the southern city of Vienna appeared split by Dumas' decision to meet Arafat.

Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement told reporters: "The debate (within the party) is so passionate that it's better that we don't talk about it."



Cuban diplomats expelled after London shooting

LONDON, Sept 13, (Reuters) Britain has ordered two Cuban diplomats, including the ambassador, to leave Britain by midnight today after police allegations that an envoy fired shots at people on a busy London street.

The Foreign Office said the expulsion of commercial attaché Carlos Manuel Medina Perez and Ambassador Oscar Fernandez Mell should serve as a warning to other London diplomats not to carry arms.

Police quoted Medina Perez as saying he opened fire outside his home because he believed his life was in danger.

Witnesses said the attaché fired up to five shots when a car with four people pulled up in front of his house. The men ran off, one holding a blood-soaked handkerchief to his head, and were picked up by another car in an adjacent street.

Medina Perez was arrested yesterday afternoon. Scotland Yard said he surrendered his revolver but was released from a police station after claiming diplomatic immunity.

Police sealed off the attaché's apartment last night for investigations.

The Cuban embassy declined to comment on the incident, which occurred less than a week after a Vietnamese diplomat was expelled for brandishing a revolver in front of his embassy during a demonstration.

"One doesn't lightly expel an ambassador with just about 24 hours' notice and that is an indication of how strongly we feel. I hope the message now gets home to the diplomatic corps that we are not prepared to have this kind of behaviour on the streets of London," junior Minister Tim Eggar told reporters yesterday.

Bonn praises Iran and Syria

Released West German hostage leaves for home

DAMASCUS, Sept 13, (Agencies) Freed West German hostage Rudolf Cordes accompanied by his wife and German envoys left for home today one day after his 20-month ordeal in Lebanon ended. He declared "I feel I'm born again."

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Cordes, 55, Beirut manager for the Hoechst AG pharmaceutical company, was freed



Cordes speaks to reporters while Farouk Al Sharaa (right) looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

in Beirut at midnight yesterday and escorted to Damascus by Syrian officers. He spent the night at a government guest palace and was reunited with his wife today before the official ceremony at Sharaa's office.

Swap

Cordes was kidnapped in Beirut on Jan 17, 1987, by Shiite Muslim Lebanese extremists who were seeking to swap him for two brothers jailed in Germany on terrorist charges.

"There were moments during which I was feeling so terrible... it was awful," Cordes said at the Foreign Ministry, packed with Syrian and German officials and dozens of newsmen.

Turning to his wife, and hugging her tighter, he said: "But now that I am a free man again, that I am joining my family, everything seems so far away."

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بھارتی صدر کی پاکستان پر کٹ گئی

لبنانی وزیر دفاع کا اغواء اور رہائی

ایران عراق مذاکرات

یوگوسلاویہ میں ہونے والے فساد کے طیارے کا گرنے کا رپورٹ

میں معافی

کیا کے سفر کو برطانیہ چھوڑنے کا حکم

عالمی واقعات پر تبصرہ اور پیشینیا

Time is not ripe to declare independence, PLO told

MANAMA, Sept 13, (AP) Soviet officials are meeting PLO leaders in Tunisia and have told Yasser Arafat Moscow does not believe the time is right to declare an independent Palestinian state in Israeli-occupied territory, the Al Khaleej daily reported today.

The Shariyah-based newspaper said that Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, arrived in Tunis late on Sunday and met with the PLO chairman and senior aides.

Declaring an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is one of the options Palestinian leaders are currently discussing in an effort to translate international sympathy spurred by a nine-month uprising in the Israeli-occupied zones into concrete political gains.

Chance

The paper said Polyakov went to Tunis after Moscow received "an urgent message" from the PLO listing "a number of specific questions about the views of the Soviet Union on the current developments, especially in relation to the political choices available to the Palestinians."

The daily, quoting unnamed Palestinian sources in Tunis where the PLO has its headquarters, said Moscow was advising the PLO to adopt "well-studied political moves as soon as possible because it sees a good chance of moving the Middle East

(Continued on Page 2)

Crude oil from Gulf reaches South Africa

AMSTERDAM, Sept 13, (Reuters) Seventeen cargoes of crude oil reached South Africa in the first eight months of 1987 from the Gulf, despite an embargo on deliveries by producers in that area, a Dutch monitoring group said today.

The Shipping Research Bureau, a non-governmental body set up in 1980 to keep watch on Pretoria's backdoor oil imports, said in a report the cargoes totalling some 4.3 million tonnes represented some 45 per cent of South Africa's estimated import needs during the eight months.

Destination

All 17 tankers sailed directly to South Africa from the Gulf area although none of the tankers reported its actual destination on departure from the oil-producing countries.

Oil and shipping companies were prepared to go to great lengths to conceal intended oil deliveries to South Africa. They used confidential charter agreements, reporting false destinations, and forging documents to disguise the fact that a delivery had been made, the report said.

Because of measures to conceal deliveries, it takes some time for evidence of trade to emerge. However, the monitoring of oil deliveries to South Africa has been shown to be feasible despite the secrecy surrounding such deliveries.

Recent research suggests that South Africa's strategic stockpile of crude is around seven to eight million tonnes, considerably smaller than the 16 to 17 million tonnes covering 15 months of crude imports previously estimated.

Costs

The country has incurred considerable extra costs in order to secure crude supplies, it said.

Between January 1979 and January 1988, over and above its crude oil bill of \$25 billion, South Africa has had to spend at least \$20 billion to overcome the effects of the oil embargo.

The report says that a further tightening of the current voluntary oil embargo against South Africa is feasible.

If oil exporting countries would observe and enforce their embargo policy, and increase the penalties against companies which violate their policy, the flow of oil to South Africa could be significantly curtailed.

Beatles' drum

LONDON, Sept 13, (AP) Ex-Beatles drummer Ringo Starr halted the auction sale of a 1965 bass drum bearing the famous British group's logo in an ownership wrangle yesterday.

The drum had been expected to fetch £30,000 (\$50,000) in a rock 'n' roll memorabilia sale at Sotheby's Auction House.

World Bank offers help to control flood

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (Agencies) The World Bank has offered to help Asian countries develop a water conservation project on the regional scale needed to prevent the kind of devastating floods now bringing misery to Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh disaster has "at least attracted the attention of the world community" to the problem, the bank's Asian vice-president, Atilla Karaosmanoglu, told reporters yesterday.

The problem has long been identified but until now, he said, "forbidding cost" and engineering complexities blocked action.

Karaosmanoglu, a former deputy prime minister of Turkey, said the World Bank has informed all countries concerned that "we would be willing to help if they feel our help would be useful and necessary in terms of addressing the technical issues — and, if necessary, being a go-between between the countries."

Snows

Managing water flow from the melting snows of the Himalayas, the world's highest mountains, and preventing annual floods each year in the lowlands of India and Bangladesh would also involve Nepal and possibly China, he said.

Assistance was offered at the time of the annual meeting of the

151 World Bank member nations here last year, during bank president Barber Conable's recent visit to Nepal and India and again with the onset of the current severe flood, Karaosmanoglu said.

The countries contacted were appreciative but have taken no decisions, he said, adding, "the fact that world public opinion is now attracted to this issue probably will provide us a good basis to start reviewing again the issues involved."

Karaosmanoglu declined to estimate the cost of a complex water plan for the Ganges, Brahmaputra and other major rivers and countless tributaries. Jay F. Morris, deputy director of the US Foreign Aid Programme has been quoted as putting it at more than \$25 billion.

Reforestation

The problem is "not only flood control works in Bangladesh, but issues of resource management in three, possibly four countries, with a whole host of issues which may include reforestation of some parts of the Himalayas and provision of more reservoirs," Karaosmanoglu said.

"The major issue is the agreement of the riparian (river-bordering) countries about the sharing of these rivers, the rate of

(Continued on Page 2)

DAY BY DAY

EVEN though the laws issued in 1983 and implemented in 1984 took into account the Manak crisis and its problems, decisions and procedures at the Kuwait Stock Market are still greatly influenced by it. It would appear that the sole aim is to prevent share prices from going up. Now that the Manak crisis is behind us, we should not dwell on the subject interminably.

The US went through the crash of '29, but overcame its consequences soon afterwards. Only last year, most world stock markets suffered the biggest crash since that of '29, but did not issue complex legislation as a result.

On the contrary, they discussed the simplification of their laws and demanded reduced taxation on foreign investments.

Regrettably, we are still living in the shadow of the Manak crisis, due to present legislation and implementation procedures. But, there are no constant factors in economic and political issues. We should follow the example of other countries, which have done their best to restore order and then move on.

Zahed Matar

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will remain around normal with moderate north-westerly wind freshening at times.

State of sea: moderate.

High water: 1.00 am, 1 pm

Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.32 am

Sunset: 5.55 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 41°C 106°F

Fahla: 39°C 102°F

Minimum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 40°C 104°F

Fahla: 38°C 100°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 38 per cent

Amman: 41 per cent

Fahla: 45 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 35 per cent

Amman: 39 per cent

Fahla: 42 per cent

Arab Times

Grand Bingo

Mr Azizur Rahman has won the Top Line prize. He will receive KD 25. The three Full House prizes are still to be won.

Pakistan urged to halt support for terrorists

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, Sept 13. (AP) Indian President Ramaswami Venkataraman yesterday called on neighbouring Pakistan to halt support for "terrorist activities" against India and stop its "clandestine" nuclear weapons programme.

Speaking at a banquet on the first day of a state visit to the Netherlands, Venkataraman said: "We hope that certain (Pakistani) policies such as involvement in terrorist activities directed against us... will be eschewed in the interest of durable peace and understanding between close neighbours."

And he added that Pakistan should stop the "pursuit of its clandestine nuclear weapons programme, which (has) thwarted the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries."

Objected

India, which has been in violent conflict with its western neighbour several times since both nations gained independence in 1947, has objected against Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme repeatedly. Pakistan denies its programme is aimed at the production of nuclear weapons.

Venkataraman, who arrived here earlier yesterday to begin a four-nation European tour, did not specify the terrorist activities purportedly supported by Pakistan.

But India has repeatedly accused the government of the late Gen. Zia-ul-Haq of fomenting unrest in Punjab, where Sikh militants are pursuing an independent homeland.

Referring to Zia's death in a plane crash last month, the Indian President said: "We sincerely hope that Pakistan will successfully withstand the shock of the recent traumatic events there and that a stable government will be formed."

Bush failed to warn Reagan against arms sales to Iran: Dukakis

WASHINGTON, Sept 13. (AP) Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis charged yesterday that Vice-President George Bush, his Republican rival, botched his assignments in the battle against drugs and terrorism. Bush challenged Dukakis to state his views on the US strike against Libya and invasion of Grenada.

Bush also named a panel of national security advisers including former secretaries of state Henry A. Kissinger and Alexander M. Haig as well as Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was Democratic President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser.

With Nov 8 elections less than two months away, Dukakis has launched a counter-offensive against Republican charges he would cripple US defence and foreign policy.

The Massachusetts governor told 200 supporters in Philadelphia that Bush was "disastrously and completely and unforgivably wrong" for not warning President Reagan against selling arms to Iran in an attempt to free hostages.

Dukakis said he would restore respect for the United States, which he said had been undermined by Reagan-Bush failures to combat terrorism, come to grips with the trade deficit and

New era

LONDON, Sept 13. (AP) Dame Gwyneth Jones sang the title role in Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot" last night to open the new season and a new era at the royal opera house, Covent Garden.

During an ovation for the Welsh soprano, the new general director, Jeremy Isaacs, presented her with the house's silver medal to mark her debut there 25 years ago.

"You never once have not given us your best," said Isaacs, who took over from Sir John Tooley on Sept 1.

stop "the avalanche of drugs... pouring across our borders."

"In each of these areas, George Bush has failed," said Dukakis.

"I want to beat our foreign competitors. He's willing to settle for second best," he said. "I want to crack down on terrorism. He knuckled under to the Ayatollah (Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran)."

"I want a real war on drugs. His answer to drug kingpins like (Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio) Noriega is J. Danforth Quayle," said Dukakis. Quayle, the Republican vice-presidential nominee, has been widely criticised by the Democrats on a variety of issues.

Bush, at a news conference in Washington and later at a rally before 1,000 flag-waving Cuban-Americans in union city, New Jersey, berated Dukakis on defence and foreign affairs as well as the economy.

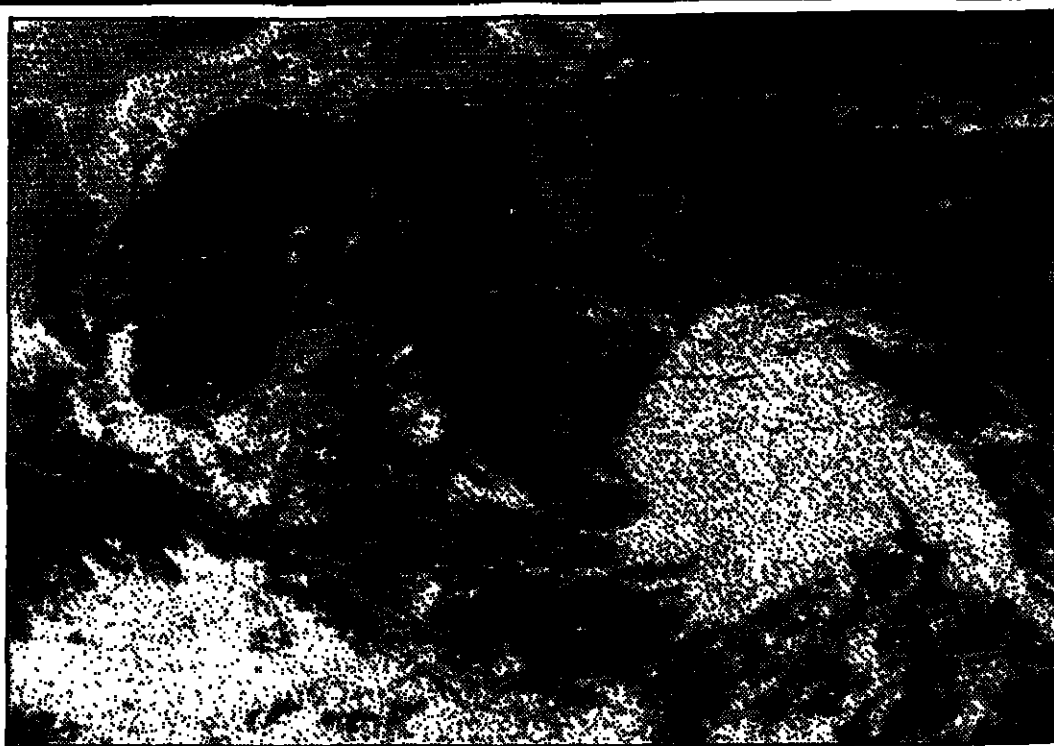
Bush demanded that Dukakis spell out whether he supported the 1983 US bombing raid on Libya and the invasion "to free Grenada from its Cuban masters."

"I support those things. Now, does he support them? Let's ask him that question," said Bush.

He also asked whether Dukakis would admit "that your support for a nuclear freeze was a mistake."

Dukakis has opposed the MX and Midetman missiles and has called the Strategic Defence Initiative a fantasy, although he emphasised last week he would continue basic research on "Star Wars" at a reduced level.

Dukakis had his own questions for Bush, ranging from the Iran-Contra affair to why the Reagan administration cut funds for the Coast Guard and aid for state and local drug agencies while it put "General Noriega on its payroll." Noriega under US indictment on drug trafficking charges.



The eye of Hurricane Gilbert can be seen touching the coast of Jamaica in this satellite photo received at the Hurricane Centre in Miami. Gilbert's eye was located on the island's coast near Kingston. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hurricane Gilbert hits Cayman Islands after pounding Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept 13. (AP) Hurricane Gilbert, packing sustained winds of 210 KPH (130 MPH) and strengthening, hit the Cayman Islands today after pounding Jamaica with fierce rains that spawned flash floods and mudslides, weather and radio reports said.

An unconfirmed report said 30 were killed in Jamaica, where the storm tore off rooftops, knocked out electricity and dumped up to 25 centimetres (10 inches) of rain yesterday. Thousands fled their battered homes, and telephone communications on the island were cut off in many areas.

The Cayman Islands are "very flat, there's not a lot of places people can go to get refuge," said Bob Sheets of the US National Hurricane Centre.

Doren Miller, general manager of Radio Cayman, said that Little Cayman and many areas of Grand Cayman had been evacuated.

The US National Weather Service and Amateur Radio operators said they received reports of heavy damage in Kingston, a city of 750,000 on the southwest coast and Montego Bay on the north. Twenty-foot (6-metre) waves pounded the northern resort area of Ocho Rios and tourists were evacuated from beachside hotels.

In Cuba, 115,000 people were evacuated as a precaution in five eastern provinces when Gilbert's winds brushed the island, said Prensa Latina, the government news agency.

Approaching

Gilbert churned toward Grand Cayman, and Hurricane watches were issued further ahead for western Cuba and for Mexico's northeastern Yucatan peninsula, including the resort areas of Cozumel and Cancun, said the US National Weather Service.

At 6 a.m. (1000 GMT), Gilbert was centred about 60 miles (100 kilometres) southeast of Grand Cayman and was approaching the island at 15 MPH (25 KPH), the US National Hurricane Centre reported.

"Persons in the Cayman Islands should be prepared for severe hurricane conditions

which are beginning to spread over the islands," it said.

The centre said squalls spawned by the storm would hit the Florida Keys today. "All interests in the western Caribbean should continue to monitor the progress of this dangerous hurricane."

"Everyone is waiting with bated breath," Miller said in Puerto Rico in a telephone interview late yesterday.

Lashed

Miller said that a lawyer in Jamaica called the radio station and said at least 30 people had died across Jamaica as the brunt of the storm lashed the Caribbean island yesterday afternoon.

Miller said his station's correspondent in Jamaica reported that hundreds of families had fled their homes because of rising floodwaters.

Sustained winds of 115 MPH (185 KPH) and gusts of 140 MPH (225 KPH) were recorded in Kingston yesterday as the heart of the storm passed directly over the island, he said.

He said he talked with the weather office in Kingston as the hurricane's eye brought brief calm over the capital city.

"Then on the trailing edge" of the eye wall, there were winds just as strong and they said they couldn't see anything outside their windows. It was quite a frightening experience for them," he said.

World Bank offers help to control flood

(Continued from Page 1)

development, control and usage," he said, referring to issues long under negotiation between India and Bangladesh.

Floods that have made 30 million people homeless in Bangladesh receded further today but the death toll from drowning, disease and snake bites neared 1,000, officials said.

Unofficial sources have already put the death toll in three weeks of floods at more than 1,600.

Alarmed by the fast-spreading epidemic, the government has asked the central health control room not to divulge fresh figures.

A flood control centre official said the Buriganga and Sitalakya rivers, which flooded Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital, would fall below flood level by Friday.

Bangladesh has received pledges

of \$200 million in aid from various governments and international agencies.

Some politicians have accused the government of mismanaging the relief effort, citing several cases of misappropriation of goods by some officials.

One senior official at the Relief Ministry said two officials in the town of Narayanganj had been punished for misappropriating relief goods.

"The government is determined to ensure proper handling of the relief operation at different levels. Instructions have been sent to mete quick punishment to those found guilty of misappropriation of relief goods," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A senior United Nations official arrived in Bangladesh today to co-ordinate international relief efforts.

Botswana is an island of peace, says Pope

GABORONE, Botswana, Sept 13. (UPI) Pope John Paul II arrived in the capital of Botswana today and praised the diamond-rich nation bordering white-ruled South Africa as an "island of peace in a troubled sea."

The Pontiff's special Air Zimbabwe Boeing 707 arrived in Gaborone, some 15 miles (25 km) north of the South African border, from Harare at 10:51 am (0851 GMT) on the second leg of his 10-day tour of the five so-called front line states.

He alighted from the jet, knelt to kiss the tarmac and was then greeted by President Quett Masire, a strong opponent of apartheid who told the Pontiff, "the philosophy of racial separation is a non-Christian as it is evil."

Two dozen bare-breasted Catholic boys and girls from nearby villages, wearing hyena skin and seed pod ankle bracelets, danced in circles before the Pope, then rushed towards him, curtsying and genuflecting.

Reception

The Pope reviewed a reception line stretching for more than 300 yards that included a number of priests and nuns from South Africa, among them Irish missionary Colombo Kelly, who said 25,000 South Africans were expected to cross the border to attend an afternoon mass.

"Botswana is a country at peace with itself and with its neighbours," the Pope said on his arrival from Harare. "In fact, it can rightly be called an island of peace in a troubled sea."

"May your country also continue to be an agent of peace for your neighbours," he said.

The Pope later held a meeting with priests, nuns and laity, in the Gaborone cathedral, where he praised the fight against apartheid.

Discrimination

"You have witnessed the plight of those who are subject to law by discrimination," he said. "I gladly support you in your desire to be close to those who are unjustly deprived of their legitimate rights," he said.

The Pope leaves Botswana tomorrow morning to continue his journey to Lesotho, Swaziland, and Mozambique, where rightwing anti-government rebels yesterday announced a ceasefire along 10 major highways to allow people to travel and see the Pontiff.

Vatican spokesman Joaquim Navarro Valls told reporters travelling with the Pope that John Paul would visit Africa again next year, touring Madagascar and Tanzania. He said neither Marxist-ruled Angola nor South Africa were on the agenda.

Moderates gaining ground in Iran

NICOSIA, Sept 13. (Reuters) The rejection of three cabinet ministers by Iran's Parliament is a further sign that relative moderates are gaining in a power struggle within the leadership, diplomats in the Gulf said today.

"There is a major struggle for power going on right now," said one Gulf-based Western diplomat. "There is no doubt the extremists are losing power."

Simmering differences in the government burst into the open last week when Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi tendered his resignation, citing difficulties in agreeing cabinet posts with Parliament and President Ali Khamenei.

Analysts said the main point of contention was state intervention in an economy ravaged by eight years of war with Iraq.

Controls

Musavi advocates tighter government controls and is suspicious of foreign investment.

Others, including President Ali Khamenei and military supreme Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, say living standards should be improved using domestic resources and foreign assistance.

"On the one side you have Rafsanjani who wants stronger ties with the West and foreign investment, and on the other you have Musavi who fears any kind of change he feels may betray the revolution," the Western diplomat said.

He said the power struggle was taking place against a backdrop of severe hardship which most of the population suffered during the war.

"Something must be done to satisfy the people. In many cases their houses were destroyed by the war with Iraq. They have little to eat and nowhere to live," he said.

S. African activists escape

JOHANNESBURG, Africa, Sept 13. (AP) The most prominent anti-apartheid activist, Nelson Mandela, escaped from a state-of-emergency regulations imposed by the government and took refuge at the US consulate, police said.

The three have requested meeting with US Ambassador Edward Perkins. Two of the three are senior officials of the now-banned United Democratic Front - publicity secretary Murphy Morobe, a black, and acting general secretary Mohammed Vally Moosa, an Indian. The other is Vusi Khanyile, a black who was chairman of the banned National Education Crisis Committee.

Krish Naidoo, who has represented the UDF in the past, announced at a press conference that the three had taken refuge at the US consulate, on the 11th floor of an office building in downtown Johannesburg.

Brig. Leon Meller, a spokesman for the Law and Order Ministry, said the men had escaped from a Johannesburg hospital, which he did not identify.

A friend of Vally Moosa's said she had visited him yesterday at Johannesburg General Hospital.

'Time is not ripe to declare independence'

(Continued from Page 1)

peacemaking process through an international conference.

Israel opposes convening an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and refuses to deal directly with the PLO.

Al Khaleel quoted its sources as saying the Soviets were advising the PLO against a unilateral declaration of independence for the West Bank and Gaza "as that would complicate the chances for convening the international conference."

The Soviets prefer the formation of a provisional Palestinian government committed to a "practical political platform," the sources added.

Options

Proclaiming an independent state and a provisional government are options Palestinian leaders have been considering since King Hussein severed Jordan's political and administrative links with the PLO in July 1988.

That was an open challenge to the PLO, which Arabs consider the Palestinians' sole representative, to assume responsibility for the 1.5 million Palestinians living in the occupied areas.

The 451-member Palestine National Council, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, is scheduled to meet in emergency session next month to consider the next moves.

Released West German hostage leaves...

(Continued from Page 1)

Cordes told Sharara: "I understand that it was a real help from Syria that got me released last night. I am overwhelmed. So happy."

Happy captors, a group calling itself the Holy Warriors for Freedom, had said in a statement yesterday that it was freeing Cordes in response to Iranian and Syrian intervention.

Cordes was dropped in an undisclosed West Beirut neighbourhood, picked up by the police and taken first to Lebanese Interior Minister Abdullah Rassi's home.

There he was turned over to Col Ali Hammoud, the Syrian Army intelligence chief for the Beirut area, who escorted him to Damascus by road.

Witnessed Cordes reunited with his wife about two hours before he was turned over to the German officials at the Foreign Ministry.

"She fell into his arms and they kissed each other for a long time," an official who witnessed the reunion said.

Commenting on Cordes' release, Sharara said: "We are very pleased to see Mr Cordes back, fit and well, and that he is enjoying his release and that he will be back with Mrs Cordes to his country and home."

UK strike ends

(Continued from Page 1)

mail, and there will be an all-out effort to move it."

The national executive board of the Union of Communication Workers, which represents 180,000 post office employees, announced its support yesterday for a pact to end the walkout, said spokesman Allen Slater.

The objective by both sides should be to return to work by Thursday," Slater said. The 100,000 striking workers will iron out return-to-work details with managers at local post offices, he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Summit may be held

Murphy to visit Syria for talks on Lebanon

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13. (Agencies): The United States has welcomed a call by Lebanon's parliamentary speaker for swift selection of a new President and said Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy would visit Syria soon for talks on the transition of power in Lebanon.

"Assistant Secretary Murphy will be departing shortly for Damascus for talks with Syrian officials. His talks there will focus on the situation in Lebanon," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said at a news briefing.

He did not give a departure date for Murphy's second visit to the region in as many months but said the talks would concentrate on the need for a peaceful transition to a new President in Lebanon.

Second
Lebanon's parliamentary speaker yesterday called on deputies to meet on Sept. 22 to elect a new President and end a political crisis threatening new factional violence.

Speaker Hussein Husseini's call was the second since last month when Parliament failed to muster a quorum for a vote after a boycott by Christian deputies opposed to Syrian-backed front-runner Suleiman Franjeh.

"We welcome and strongly support Speaker Hussein Hus-

senni's call for Parliament to meet on Sept. 22 to select a new President," Redman said.

"We continue to believe that the Lebanese presidential election must proceed constitutionally and peacefully with a President dedicated to reconciliation and reform taking office on Sept. 23."

The breakdown in Lebanon's electoral process was the most serious since independence in 1943 and has increased sectarian rivalry, raising fears of a new flare-up in the 13-year-old civil war.

Disputes
Under the Lebanese constitution, the term of President Amin Gemayel expires on Sept. 23 and a new President must be chosen by the Lebanese Parliament before then. But attempts to convene the Parliament for elections have been unsuccessful because of continuing factional disputes.

Those disputes, according to Lebanese and American officials, are taking place in the shadow of larger test of strength between the United States and Syria, with Israel, which occupies part of southern Lebanon, acting as a third interested bystander.

The Syrians have backed Franjeh. The United States, while it has backed no specific candidate, would prefer to see Lebanese President who would

be more independent of Syrian influence.

One Lebanese diplomat described the situation as one where both Syria and the United States have a veto, but neither has a majority.

Asked if the US government takes any position on any individual Lebanese candidates, Redman said, "absolutely not."

Syrian allies in Lebanon have accused the US and Israel of trying to impose their will on the country by opposing Franjeh.

Attempt
Some Lebanese politicians have urged that the US and Syria hold a "summit" to find a consensus candidate before the Lebanese government collapses.

The Murphy visit appears to be an attempt to hold such a meeting to find a candidate who would be mutually acceptable.

Once that new President takes office, the first task would be to revise the present Lebanese constitution to take into account the changing demographic situation in the country.

The US and Syria have been working quietly to put together a draft document which would more accurately reflect the changing religious and political situation in the country, recognising the growing preponderance of Muslims and the diminishing power of the Christians.



Ben Ali (left) and Mitterrand outside Elysee Palace before starting official talks.

Burmese urged not to try to split the military

RANGOON, Sept. 13. (Agencies): Burma's military commander pleaded with demonstrators to stop trying to split the defence forces, and official radio warned that soldiers would shoot anyone caught distributing leaflets that claim dissident troops are ready to attack government buildings.

"Please do not engage in organisational efforts, persuasions, enticements, and allegations to disintegrate the defence forces," military chief Saw Maung said in a speech carried last night by Rangoon Radio. "If unity breaks up within the defence forces, then the state can lose its independence."

The radio said a group of people were passing out leaflets and using loudspeakers to demand the abolition of the ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party and the formation of an interim government.

It said the group warned that if the demands were not met, the Air Force and the Navy would bombard key government buildings.

Some of the leaflets were allegedly signed by the chiefs of the Air Force and Navy, the radio said, but denied the commanders were involved. "The

Ben Ali ventures outside Arab world

PARIS, Sept. 13. (UPI): Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has begun a three-day visit to France, his first outside the Arab world since he assumed power on Nov. 7 by removing his ageing predecessor, Habib Bourguiba, and began a gradual campaign to expand democracy in his North African nation.

French President Francois Mitterrand was on hand yesterday at Orly Airport south of the capital to greet Ben Ali, who shortly before his state visit to France announced he would hold presidential and general legislative elections in November 1989 on the second anniversary of his taking power.

"You know how much Tunisia and France are tied," said Mitterrand in welcoming remarks. "We have the duty to reinforce those ties and to guarantee them for future generations," he added.

Ben Ali responded: "This visit is the first I have undertaken outside of the Maghreb and Saudi Arabia. It illustrates the tight links that exist between our two countries."

The two men held initial talks in the afternoon at the Elysee Palace. Mitterrand's official residence, and met again at a state dinner in the evening.

Officials in Paris said the visit was seen as a "consolidation of French support" 10 months after the removal on Nov. 7 of Bourguiba.

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India arrests Tigers leader after protests

MADRAS, India, Sept. 13. (AP): Police arrested the local head of the militant Tamil Tigers and 14 of his associates on Monday, a senior police official said.

Sadasivam Krishnakumar, a former commander and deputy of Prabhakaran, chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most militant Tamil guerrilla group, was arrested from his east Madras home along with 14 others and charged under the National Security Act.

Police in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu have captured 169 Tamil militants who had sought refuge in India, and charged them under the NSA. Inspector General of Police K.K. Rajasekharan said. One hundred and fifty four Tamil were arrested on Aug. 8, and charged under the NSA.

The NSA allows the government to imprison a suspect for a period of up to one year without formal charges.

Krishnakumar left active guerrilla warfare in early 1987 after he lost a leg in a grenade attack by a rival militant Tamil group.

Political commentators in Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu state, said the arrests were in response to Sri Lankan President Jayawardene's announcement of a merger between the Northern and Eastern Provinces and elections in those districts of Sri Lanka.

Under terms of the agreement, the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, where Tamils comprise a majority, would be given a measure of

regional autonomy. Tamil militants have waged a five-year war against the Sri Lankan government, saying they are discriminated against by the 75 per cent mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority in the country.

India became involved since it is the regional power in the area and because 60 million Tamils in Tamil Nadu are sympathetic to the Tamil cause in Sri Lanka.

Tamils, mostly Hindus, make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

Police chief Nair said the arrests yesterday followed an attempt by members of the Dravida Kazhagam, a Tamil political party in the state, to protest Krishnakumar's detention at his residence.

Krishnakumar has been under police surveillance since the Tamil Tigers rejected the India-brokered peace accord in September last year. He was kept in detention at his home since June 1988, Nair said.

Meanwhile, explosives set off by remote control killed nine policemen and injured others on a road in eastern Sri Lanka today, the military said, blaming the blast on Tamil extremists.

The explosives were detonated by remote control as a truck carrying the policemen travelled through Lahugala, a small town in Ampara district about 195 kms (120 miles) east of Colombo, according to military officials.

All the victims were Sinhalese, said the officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules. He did not know how many police were injured.

Cyprus unity talks begin tomorrow

NICOSIA, Sept. 13. (Reuters): President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş begin Cyprus unity talks on Thursday after a UN-brokered success at their first ever meeting in Geneva last month.

"We are still under the spell of the good spirit of Geneva," UN special representative Oscar Camillion said in a recent interview.

The leaders will meet on the UN-controlled buffer zone in the once-elegant "Ledra" Palace Hotel, now the barracks for the Canadian contingent of the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Vassiliou, a new President elected in February, and Denktaş, a veteran of troubled Cypriot politics, set themselves a June 1, 1989, target in Geneva to reach an accord to reunite Greek and Turkish Cypriots in a federal state.

Commentators said Vassiliou and Denktaş got off to a good start and created a positive climate in Geneva.

Cyprus has been split since 1974 when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third after a short-lived coup in Nicosia led by officers of the military junta then ruling Greece.

Angry Siberians heckle Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Sept. 13. (Reuters): Angry Siberians yesterday asked Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to go into their shops and see that they had nothing to buy, in unprecedented scenes broadcast across the country on Moscow television.

The heckling, although apparently not aimed at Gorbachev personally, came within minutes of the Kremlin chief's arrival at Krasnoyarsk, a Siberian industrial region, starting a week-long visit.

Gorbachev, who arrived in Krasnoyarsk at 10.30, was greeted by a crowd of about 100 people. He was seen to shake hands with some of them. He then went to a shop to buy some fruit. He was seen to look at the shelves and then to walk away without buying anything.

"Go into our shops, Mikhail Sergeyevich. You'll see there's nothing there," one woman shouted at him when he stopped to talk to people crowded by the side of the road on the way into the city from the airport.

Queues
"We have queues everywhere, for meat, for sausage, for everything," a man called out as Gorbachev, his wife Raisa at his side, sought to calm the crowd to tell them measures would be taken to improve their living conditions.

"No-one's doing anything about housing here ... We have

no hot water ... Our public transport is a disaster," other voices were heard to say in the encounter, shown as the main item on television's evening news programme.

Although Gorbachev has made meetings with ordinary people on the streets of the Soviet Union a trademark in his three and a half years in power, yesterday's exchanges were the frankest yet publicised by the state media.

The 57-year-old leader, who arrived in Krasnoyarsk at 10.30, was greeted by a crowd of about 100 people. He was seen to shake hands with some of them. He then went to a shop to buy some fruit. He was seen to look at the shelves and then to walk away without buying anything.

He told the hecklers, Moscow was as much responsible for the area's problems as local leaders. "We all have to reconstruct ourselves, from the top downwards," he said. "At all levels, the leadership is still being formed."

Gorbachev flew to Krasnoyarsk from Moscow on his first publicly-announced engagement since July 30. Although Soviet spokesmen have declined to reveal his whereabouts, he is believed to have been on holiday in the Crimea.

Alzheimer's disease

VANCOUVER, Sept. 13. (Reuters): Three researchers said in findings published yesterday that Alzheimer's disease is a chronic inflammation of the brain and not just a simple disease of ageing.

The findings of the three University of British Columbia neuroscientists were published in the European scientific journal Neuroscience Letters.

The discovery suggested the body's immune system is the key to finding a cure or treatment for the disease, which afflicts victims with progressive memory and learning loss.

Some of the leaflets were allegedly signed by the chiefs of the Air Force and Navy, the radio said, but denied the commanders were involved. "The

panel disagreed and issued a dissenting report, suggesting there was no change in the Soviet attitude.

Since taking power in March, 1985, Gorbachev has talked about economic and military reforms aimed at shifting more spending into consumer goods and away from the huge Soviet military structure, Aspin noted.

"To date, there have been no significant, identifiable changes traceable to Gorbachev's drive to scale back defence spending," the study concluded.

Soviet military reforms yet to be visible

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13. (Agencies): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's rhetoric about reducing arms spending and reforming the Soviet military machine hasn't produced any concrete changes yet, says a congressional study released yesterday.

But the United States should be ready with "cautious and careful" new proposals for conventional arms reductions should Gorbachev succeed in restructuring the military, said Congressman Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed

Japan to lift sanctions against North Korea

TOKYO, Sept. 13. (AP): Japan said today it will lift its sanctions against communist North Korea on Friday, the day before the Summer Olympics open in Seoul, South Korea, "in the friendly and generous spirit appropriate to a festival of peace."

The announcement was made a day after a Japanese opposition leader returning from North Korea said the Pyongyang government was willing to free two Japanese seamen detained for more than four years on spying charges.

Tsuruo Yamaguchi, secretary-general of the Japan Socialist Party, said North Korean leaders wanted to improve North Korean-Japanese relations.

The relations were ruptured when Tokyo imposed the sanctions early this year after Pyongyang's alleged bombing of a South Korean passenger flight over Burma. North Korea denied involvement in the disaster, which killed all 115 people aboard the aircraft last November.

Japanese sanctions included restrictions on contact between Japanese and North Korean officials.

"Since that time, domestic and foreign interest in preventing the recurrence of terrorism has reached an unprecedentedly high level, indicating that the aim of showing Japan's firm attitude against terrorism has been achieved," the Chief Cabinet Secretary, Keizo Obuchi, said in a statement following a cabinet meeting today.

Obuchi said Japan will lift the sanctions "from the viewpoint that the Games may be conducted with the utmost possible relaxation of tension and in the friendly and generous spirit appropriate to a festival of peace."

Democratisation of S. Korea 'to continue'

NEW YORK, Sept. 13. (Agencies): Korean President Roh Tae Woo has said he believes the Olympic Games in Seoul will be followed by an era of "further democratisation" in his country, and he denied his regime was planning a full-scale crackdown on dissent.

In an interview on American television, Roh also suggested there could soon be improvements in relations with communist North Korea, despite that nation's refusal to participate in the 1988 Olympics.

North Korea is one of six Marxist nations boycotting the Seoul Games, to be held from Sept. 17 to Oct. 2.

Roh, interviewed via satellite hookup at the presidential mansion in Seoul, denied opposition claims that South Korea's recent moves toward greater democratisation would end abruptly once the Olympic Games were over and global attention shifted elsewhere.

Increased
"After successfully staging the Olympics, I expect that the increased and more concentrated energy of the people will be involved in further democratisation and liberalisation of the country," he said.

"The democratic progress will be further increased, not the other way around. And I am determined to see that it does."

Roh said he regretted that North Korea was boycotting the Olympics, but he predicted Pyongyang would soon follow the examples of China and the Soviet Union in striving for openness and reform.

North Korean President Kim Il Sung had been able to "maintain such a rigid monolithic political system" in his country but predicted that Kim's successor would yield to pressure to implement reform.

Relieve
Asked whether it was practical to consider relieving the American taxpayer of the burden of supporting 41,000 US troops in Korea, Roh said the threat to South Korea posed by the communist North also represented a danger to the United States and the rest of the free world.

"So how much we can reduce the burden on the American taxpayer depends on the reduction of this danger and threats," Roh said.

Ties
South Korea and Hungary will open permanent missions in each others' capitals, the first time Seoul has established relations with a communist nation.

The move stopped short of full diplomatic recognition, but South Korean officials said they expected the two nations to establish diplomatic ties in the near future.

The South Korean government is hoping the Olympic Games will play a major role in helping to open relations with communist nations.

Asylum
Meanwhile in Seoul, foreign diplomats said today they might offer asylum to Olympic Games defectors but South Korea said it would frown on political sanctuary for disaffected athletes, officials and spectators.

South Korea feared that defections would disrupt the harmony of the Games beginning on Saturday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Kim Sok-Kyu told reporters.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

School health services will continue, says director

THE director of the School Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Hussein Al Mumin, has said that the ministry intends to continue the services of the department.

The department is making every effort to ensure health for all by the end of this century. An ideal way to achieve this goal is to develop health services for students who form about one-third of Kuwait's population, the official said.

The department has prepared a first-aid training course for some school workers and teachers. The one-week course will begin on Sept 17 for men and on Sept 24 for women.

However, the trainees are not substitutes for the 120 nurses who were withdrawn from the university and secondary schools, the director said. The

trainees will serve as a link with the health centres and will work under the supervision of the department, Al Mumin said.

Medical teams will visit schools to provide health services. Thus, the withdrawal of nurses from secondary schools will not affect the medical and health services offered, he said.

Nurses

Nurses at kindergartens, primary and intermediate schools will not be withdrawn, he added.

As secretary of the Anti-Smoking and Cancer Society, he said that 23 per cent of pupils of intermediate and secondary schools in Kuwait are smokers.

A study in 1985 indicated 60 per cent of teachers and 45 per cent of fathers of students smoked. The percentage of pupils smoking has increased

from 13 per cent in 1979 to 23 per cent in 1985.

More than 90 per cent of smokers visiting the anti-smoking clinic began smoking when they were under 16 years of age, he added.

Prohibited

Lung cancer is rated at the top of cancer diseases among men — though it held 10th position 20 years ago. It is also on the increase among women in Kuwait, ranked second to breast cancer.

The state increased customs duties on cigarettes and stipulated reduction of tar and nicotine content. A lab to analyse imported cigarettes was established in Kuwait and advertisements in all public places are prohibited. These measures are all aimed at enlightening people about the dangers of smoking, Al Mumin said.

US Navy calls off search for fisherman

MANAMA, Bahrain, Sept 13. (UPI) The US Navy called off a search for a shipwrecked Arab fisherman in the Sea of Oman today, but three other men the Navy rescued from the same wreck 24 hours earlier were reported in good condition, officials said.

The Navy has called off the search for the fourth seaman, believed to be a United Arab Emirates national. "Lieut. Cmdr Brad Goforth, a spokesman for the Joint Task Force, Middle East, told United Press International.

Clinging

Goforth said the fourth man was apparently unable to swim. "It's a shame," the Navy spokesman commented.

He said a destroyer, a guided missile frigate and helicopters participated in the futile search before senior officers decided to give up.

The 7,800-ton US destroyer John Hancock, based at Mayport, Fla. rescued three

shipwrecked fishermen Monday. They were found clinging to the wreckage of their small craft in rough Sea of Oman waters.

Goforth said a patrol helicopter from the USS Hancock first spotted the desperate fishermen at dawn and radioed the destroyer, which moved in closer and rescued the men.

He said the USS Hancock had just finished escorting two US-chartered freighters out of the Gulf when the fishermen, two Pakistanis and a United Arab Emirates national, were spotted.

The fishermen, all from the UAE port of Fujairah, were quoted as saying one of the craft sank in heavy seas and a second began taking in water after attempting to come to its rescue.

Navy officials said the rescue was the second involving a US warship and Gulf fishermen in a month. In August, the missile cruiser Vincennes rescued eight Iranians adrift for eight days in the Sea of Oman. The seamen were later allowed to return home.

University teachers have high hopes for minister

THE teaching staff at Kuwait University has expressed the hope that the new Minister of Higher Education, Dr Ali Al Shamlan, will strive to establish a solid higher education policy and keep the ministry clear of bureaucratic red tape.

A local daily polled some officials at the university regarding the issue. The assistant rector for Community Service and Information Affairs, Dr Rasha Al Sabah, said that Al Shamlan's first-hand experience of university affairs as a former dean of the Faculty of Science will help him in his new position.

Dr Al Sabah added that the teaching staff is looking forward to a sound policy that can overcome the obstacles facing the university and disperse the current negative elements.

Readiness

Speaking of the possibility of establishing a private university, Dr Al Sabah said that the matter is in the hands of the minister, who will debate the issue with the Council of Ministers if he is convinced of its worth.

Meanwhile, Dr Al Sabah has communicated the readiness of the university's teaching staff to co-operate with the new minister.

The dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Economics and Political Science, Dr Modhi Al Humoud, said establishment of the Ministry of Higher Education is a positive step, which should be followed by the formation of a higher education council to group scientific institutions such as Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

Upgrade

Al Humoud added that because of the minister's academic background, he is interested in familiarising himself with the problems facing higher education and will spare no effort to upgrade the process.

Dr Hassan Al Abawi, dean of the Engineering and Petroleum Faculty, echoed the sentiment that Al Shamlan's background and experience in academic affairs and his knowledge of the prevailing atmosphere at Kuwait University will be of immense value.

British radar saves man's life

LONDON, Sept 13. (KUNA) A sophisticated British-made radar system proved its worth in the Gulf in an unusual way, it was confirmed here today.

Designed to track enemy aircraft and missiles, the Royal Navy's Sea Wolf missile radar system saved the life of a seaman who fell overboard in the Strait of Hormuz.

A spokesman for Marconi, the system's manufacturers, said the sailor fell from the British frigate Scylla as she passed through the strait in pitch darkness.

Detect

The warship immediately turned round to search for the crewman but could not locate him, said the Marconi spokesman.

But then it was decided to turn on the Sea Wolf's "thermal imager" system, which tracks missiles and aircraft from the heat they give off.

The system proved sensitive enough to detect the sailor's head in the dark waters of the strait, the spokesman added.

The Scylla is part of Britain's armilla patrol in the Gulf. It was not disclosed exactly when the accident took place.



● The SAS Kuwait Hotel recently welcomed Hon Kwee Kiong, as the new Chinese chef at the Peacock Room.

UAE backs peace efforts

PARIS, Sept 13. (KUNA) Deputy General Commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed has said his country and the other members of the Gulf Co-operation Council are prepared to make every effort to ensure the success of the Geneva peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

In an interview with the Paris-based Arabic language magazine "Al Yaum Al Saba" Sheikh Khalifa said the UAE supports any step towards realising peace in the Gulf region and keeping it away from international polarisation.

He said the best way to guarantee the future security of the region is through co-operation and the establishment of a network of interest and good neighbourly relations. Maintaining freedom of navigation in the Gulf is also vital, he said.

Discussing the recent Jordanian decision to sever legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank, Sheikh Khalifa said the decision came at the appropriate time in response to the demands and ambitions of the Palestinians. He said it is also in line with the Arab League Summit which supported en-

abling the PLO to shoulder the responsibility for the Palestinian struggle.

Sheikh Khalifa said the UAE backs any step the PLO takes as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He hailed the popular Palestinian uprising and emphasised that a proposed international conference on peace in the Middle East attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO is the ideal formula for the peace process.

He further said the US should begin direct talks with the PLO. Stability

The US should also pressure Israel to accept the will of the international community which supports the convocation of the conference.

Discussing oil prices, Sheikh Khalifa, whose country is a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said the UAE supports the organisation's unity and the stability of oil markets.

Oil prices depend on the ability of OPEC to reach a stable pricing and production policy, he said.

However, he said that the UAE's quota of production is not fair and is not in line with the vast petroleum capabilities of the country.

OIC official back from Southeast Asia

JEDDAH, Sept 13. (KUNA) The Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Sherifuddin Pirzadeh said he is satisfied with the results of his recent Southeast Asian tour.

Pirzadeh, who returned here yesterday, told reporters he discussed Islamic issues with senior officials in Thailand, Japan and South Korea.

Talks focussed on the Palestinian question, the Iraq-Iran conflict, the Afghan problem and Muslim minorities, he said.

He said Japan's foreign minister said Tokyo has been in continuous contact with the super powers to secure recognition of the Palestinians rights.

The South Korean foreign minister, expressed his country's sympathy with the Palestinian

people and said South Korea "deplores the violence in the occupied territories." Pirzadeh said. Seoul backs the Palestinian's rights of self-determination and statehood.

Pirzadeh also said that South Korea consider the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Pirzadeh today expressed deep concern about the flood disaster in Bangladesh which left 30 million of Bangladeshis homeless.

In a press statement Pirzadeh said he was grieved while following up developments of the natural catastrophe which swept that Islamic country.

He expressed sympathy and condolences to the people of Bangladesh on behalf of the OIC.

Juvenile delinquency cases increased in '87

JUVENILE delinquency cases increased in Kuwait last year to reach a total of 2,540, which included 108 girls, according to a recent report published by the Social Control Office.

The report said that the majority of cases involved 17 to 18 year olds who were the offenders in 966 cases, followed by those between 15 and 16 years of age who were involved in 919 cases.

The report added that 1,056 of the total committed traffic offences, 451 were involved in assault and quarrels, 356 committed thefts and the rest included rape, grievous bodily harm and murder.

The report also said that 70.9 per cent of the delinquent juveniles live with their parents in normal families, 14.2 per cent of them had fathers who had married again and 9.1 per cent had lost their fathers.

The report said that Kuwaitis formed the bulk of cases with 1,520 offences or 59.8 per cent of the total, followed by non-Kuwaitis (i.e. without nationality) with 344 cases, or 13.5 per cent.

Fishermen meet authority chairman

THE Chairman of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah yesterday received board members of the Kuwait Fishermen Union.

Sheikh Ibrahim said HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and the government are working to develop the fishing industry and to preserve fishing resources and solve its problems.

Sheikh Ibrahim also asserted the need to comply with resolutions issued by the authority to organise the fishing process and warned that the authority will punish violators.

According to recommendations by Sheikh Saad, the fish market and the union will be transferred to Al Nisf and Eishairi Port will be reconstructed and maintained to receive small fishing boats, he said.

Financial support to fishermen will follow regular procedures and will be paid by the end of month, he said.

Chemical warfare injuries discussed

FIFTEEN experts from the GCC states and Iraq yesterday began a three-day closed-door meeting in Kuwait to discuss treatment of injuries caused by chemical weapons.

This is the first time that the subject is being dealt with collectively. The meeting is being held under the auspices of the Arab Gulf Health Ministers Council.

The experts' recommendations are expected to help the GCC countries upgrade their contingency plans for dealing with natural and man-made disasters, according to a source.

The meeting was opened by Kuwait's Public Health Assistant Undersecretary Dr Rashed Al Rashed. Representing Kuwait is Dr Mohammed Saad Al Manei, director of surgery at the Adan Hospital who also heads Kuwait's National Emergency Committee.

Council completes programme plans

THE general secretariat of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters yesterday put the final touches on the council's cultural, art and literary programme for 1988/89.

The programme will include cultural weeks, seminars, and exhibitions, including Kuwait's fourth Arab Book Fair, Kuwait's eleventh exhibition for children's drawings, and short story writing competition for nationals of the Gulf Co-operation Council states.

Bahrain promotes local industries

A SPECIAL pavilion was built recently at the Bahraini Conventional Industries Fair to display local products, particularly hand-made fabrics.

The exhibits feature embroidered women and childrens clothing in addition to women's handbags, women's belts, towels and pillow cases.

The Tourism Department at Bahrain's Ministry of Information said the pavilion was designed to promote national industries during the tourist season.

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Officials to supervise airport taxi drivers

A LOCAL daily reported yesterday that Kuwait's Civil Aviation authorities intend to supervise taxi drivers at the airport in response to the many complaints from passengers, who say they are being exploited by the owners of these cars.

The daily reported that one measure will involve the sale of tickets to passengers, priced according to the destination. The passenger will give the ticket to the taxi owner, who will get his money from the ticket office after his return to the airport.

The system will be experimental in the beginning, and, in the event of its failure, relevant authorities will contract special companies to provide transport services for passengers.

Waldheim plans to visit Kuwait

VIENNA, Sept 13. (KUNA) Austrian President Kurt Waldheim will visit Kuwait at the invitation of HH the Amir from Oct 31 to Nov 3, a well-informed Austrian source said today.

Waldheim was originally scheduled to visit Kuwait last June within a Gulf tour in which he only visited Saudi Arabia.

His Kuwait visit was postponed because it coincided with the extraordinary Arab Summit Conference that convened in Algiers on June 7 to discuss support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands.

The source added that Waldheim's visit might be preceded by a trip to Syria.

Crackdown on illegal recruiting offices

THE Ministry of Commerce and Industry's commercial licences inspection section is cracking down on offices which bring maids into Kuwait illegally.

A local daily reported that inspectors of the section have closed 25 of these offices in Hawalli, 17 in Jebel Al Shiyukh and seven in the Shargh area for violating Article 115 of the Labour Law.

The ministry will issue a warning to other offices before closing them if they continue the illegal practice, the daily added.

Kuwait to attend Babylon festival

KUWAIT will participate in the second Iraqi International Babylon Festival to be held on Sept 22 through Oct 2.

The director of the press office in the Foreign Ministry Saiman Al Mnaiey told KUNA yesterday that the ministry has informed Iraqi officials about Kuwait's plan to participate in the annual festival.

Iraqi Minister of Information and Culture Latif Jassim invited Kuwait to take part in the festival which will feature folkloric shows, dances and music from different countries.

GCC summit set for Dec 19-23

MANAMA, Bahrain, Sept 13. (AP) The annual summit conference of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council member states has been set for Dec 19-23 in Bahrain, the Gulf News Agency reported yesterday.

The date was announced after a preparatory meeting between the GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara and the Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

The summit will be the ninth since Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain launched the GCC in May 1981, to promote collective security and economic unity.

The GCC is headquartered in Saudi capital of Riyadh, but the venue for summits rotates among the members.

Council to consider private university

MINISTER of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan, said yesterday that the issue of opening a private university in Kuwait will soon be considered by the Council of Ministers.

In his first press statement since his appointment last week, Al Shamlan said that he will take the issue first to the Higher Education Council before the Council of Ministers makes the final decision.

The subject of Ahlia University, which would cater to those who fail to find places at Kuwait University, has been brought up often in recent years.

Arab League condemns criticism of Iraq

TUNIS, Sept 13. (Reuters) The Arab League has condemned what it called a media campaign against Iraq and its dispute with Tehran over the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

In a declaration at the end of a two-day meeting in Tunis last night, the Arab League council said "the council announces its condemnation of this campaign and reaffirms its total solidarity with Iraq."

The council, which groups the foreign ministers of the 21-member League, was reacting to criticism of Iraq in the United States Senate for its alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurds of northern Iraq.

In a separate communique the council defended "Iraq's historic right to sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab as its only waterway to the Arab Gulf."

Stumbling

The status of the Shatt Al Arab has been one of the stumbling blocks in the UN-sponsored peace talks in Geneva between Iran and Iraq.

On the alleged media campaign, the declaration said members of the US Senate would do better to turn their attention to the Palestinians Israel was killing in the occupied territories.

The council condemned the Association of British Travel Agents for its decision to hold its annual meeting in Jerusalem this year. The decision was a

provocation to Arab feelings and contrary to international resolutions, it added.

In Geneva, a UN spokeswoman said today that United Nations and Red Cross representatives found no evidence that chemical arms had been used against Iraqi Kurdish refugees they saw last week in northwest Iran.

Official spokesman of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited centres sheltering between 7,000 and 8,000 Kurds who fled recently to Iran's western Azarbaijan province.

"The refugees reported the use of chemical arms, but the mission did not itself see any evidence of this," the spokeswoman said at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva.

Kurds seeking sanctuary in Iran and Turkey in recent weeks have said the Iraqi Army attacked them with chemical weapons, but the Baghdad government has denied this.

Turkey said on Friday no evidence of the use of chemical weapons was found while screening sick and injured refugees.

The United States, Britain, West Germany, France and Japan asked the UN secretary-general yesterday to send a team to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons by Iraq.

Gulf talks adjourned

(Continued from Page 1)

frontlines showed that "the situation is calm."

"The secretary-general and I now very much hope that all concerned will utilise this period (until Sept 22) to reflect on ways how to move the peace process forward in the next few months."

Elasson declined to be specific on the length of time the talks would be in New York but said Perez de Cuellar hoped that they would lead to progress on substance of the talks which began in Geneva on Aug 25.

In reply to a question by a newsman who suggested that the talks had stalled, he said "you may be right that on issues of substance there has been little if any progress."

But he said that in view of the complex issues "we have to have a modest appreciation of progress. He said there was a 'clear link between form and substance' if the peace process were to be maintained. The last few days of the talks, he said, "dealt very much with the establishing the process in which the work should go on with."

Elasson spoke after chairing a brief face-to-face session between the two sides during which he formally conveyed Perez de Cuellar's invitation.

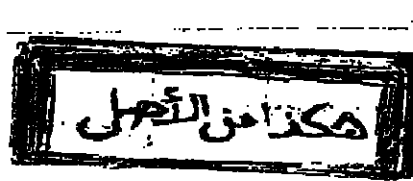
The session, which lasted only 20 minutes, came in resumption of a four-hour meeting on Saturday, the third direct session since the Geneva talks began.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was the first to emerge from the closed-door talks. He declined to speak to reporters.

Omani envoy in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, Sept 13. (KUNA) Omani Foreign Undersecretary for Political Affairs Haidh Bin Tariq arrived here last night on a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The envoy is carrying a message from Omani Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, as part of continuous consultations between the two countries.



EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

Martyrdom is the only way in which a man can become famous without ability — George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born playwright (1856-1950).

Israeli elections could end in tie

By Howard Goller

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): When Israel's left-right coalition government took office four years ago, pollsters and politicians predicted it would never last.

The "national unity government" pairing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud Bloc and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' more moderate Labour Party had everything going for it but its middle name, unity.

Now, less than eight weeks before Nov 1 elections, the partnership has defied all forecasts of doom stands a good chance of being forced into another term — to the dismay of both parties.

President Reagan shook up the campaign on Wednesday by inviting Peres and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Esmat Abdel-Maguid for Middle East talks during the United Nations General Assembly session in New York late this month.

Contrast
The move underlined how close Labour is to US Middle East policy, in sharp contrast to Likud's rejection of American proposals for an international peace conference and for Israel to trade occupied land for peace. But its impact on the election was hazy. Peres hoped it would bolster his chances, but it could backfire if Israel's nationalistic electorate perceived it as American interference.

In any event, political commentators expect no progress in peace efforts ahead of US and Israeli elections, both in November.

The unity government's joint successes and its shared failures, notably in handling a Palestinian uprising in occupied territories, mean neither party is a natural front-runner.

Opinion polls predict a virtual tie. The 120-seat Knesset (parliament) is elected by strict proportional representation, which means all of Israel's 11 governments in the last 40 years have been coalitions including small Jewish religious parties. Inconclusive results in 1984 forced Shamir and Peres to share power under an unusual four-year "rotation agreement" that gave each the prime minister's office for two years.

Taiwan grapples with environmental protests

By Andrew Quinn

TAIPEI, (Reuters): Taiwan is paying the price for 30 years of environmental neglect as a public backlash blocks important industrial projects and threatens to stall economic growth.

Lights are flickering out in the capital, Taipei, because residents of a fashionable middle-class suburb have blocked construction of a power substation.

Officials say electricity shortages could spread to Taiwan's industrial heartland where opposition is mounting to plans for nuclear and even conventional power stations needed to fuel the island's export-led boom.

Banner-waving protesters, some permanently occupying building sites, are slowing a string of government investment projects worth about \$35 billion, including highways and an underground rail system for Taipei.

"The environmentalists are killing the goose that lays the golden egg," said Ronald Shieh, environmental safety director at state-run China Petroleum Corporation.

"If the economy collapses, that won't be good for the environment either."

Growth
Impressive economic growth over the past 30 years transformed the densely-populated island from an agricultural backwater into the world's 13th-ranked trading nation. But unchecked industrial expansion has poisoned rivers and wells, killed forests and fouled the air. Dubbed Formosa, or "the beautiful island", by visiting Portuguese sailors in the 16th century, Taiwan is now one of Asia's most polluted countries.

"People have seen the environment deteriorate before their very eyes," said environmental activist Ma Yi-Kung.

Peres insists he would never form another coalition with Shamir but Israeli political analysts voice doubts.

At conventions this week to launch their campaigns, both parties made clear they would rather go it alone. Their slogans: "Only Likud can" and "Labour, the way to a breakthrough."

The slogans mean to reflect the campaign's key issues: peace and a strong defence. Many voters believe the urgency of both issues was never greater.

Revolt
Their importance is enhanced by a nine-month-old Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories, where soldiers have battled Arab protesters armed with stones and petrol bombs. About 270 Palestinians and five Israelis have died in the daily violence.

In the run-up to the election, both parties are playing up their differences. But critics, including a sizeable number of undecided voters, see little to distinguish one from the other.

The Jerusalem Post, a liberal daily that generally supports Labour, accused both parties in a harsh editorial on Wednesday of talking nonsense to the people. "The Knesset election campaign ... promises to be one long exercise in sloganeering, with most political energies being devoted to the feuding of real issues, not to their elucidation," the newspaper wrote.

Talks
When they formed the government with seven minor parties, Likud and Labour reached a minimum consensus on peace and security issues.

They opposed talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation, favoured an "iron fist" policy to crush Arab uprising and ultimately supported direct Arab-Israeli talks to reach a peace settlement.

They differ on the question of trading land for peace. Labour is prepared to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and most of the West Bank and would go to a UN-sponsored Middle East conference to launch direct talks. Likud rejects an international conference and would grant Palestinians only limited self-rule under Israeli sovereignty in the territories.

Public opinion polls reflect the left-right divisions in the government.

The disastrous gas leak at a pesticide plant in the Indian city of Bhopal in 1984 became a rallying point for Taiwan's fledgling environmental movement.

The following year, activists organised protests to block plans by Du Pont, the American chemical giant, for a titanium dioxide plant in central Taiwan. Du Pont is searching for another site for the \$160 million project, which would be Taiwan's largest single foreign investment project.

Tolerance
Demands for a better environment have intensified since the government lifted martial law last year and has shown more tolerance towards protest marches and demonstrations.

The most dramatic result of the protests has been the Taipei power cuts in the middle of a stifling summer.

The refusal of residents to allow an unsightly substation in their neighbourhood meant the state-run power monopoly, Taipower, could not always provide sufficient electricity and had to impose power cuts.

The same has happened elsewhere in Taiwan where local residents are blocking construction of a fourth nuclear power station and conventional power plants.

"Taiwan is headed for a real energy crisis. Even if we try to solve it by using coal plants, then there will just be more environmental problems," said Tony Liao, Taipower's chief environmental officer.

Small
"People want the power, they just don't want the power plants," he said.

Environmentalists argue that Taiwan is too small to support a nuclear power industry. They say that almost five million people live within a 30-km (20-mile) radius of the planned fourth nuclear plant.

Jordanian-Palestinian relationship

Demographic factor prevents easy divorce

By Jim Muir

AMMAN, Jordan: "Jordan is not Palestine" is a slogan much used by officials in Amman these days.

King Hussein's July 31 announcement cutting links with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank pleased Jordanian nationalists. These Jordanians have long argued that Jordan should stop identifying itself with the "Palestinian question" and concentrate on building up its own identity.

For the moment at least, senior officials here do not seem inclined toward forming a "confederation" with the 1.5 million Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. Such a confederation has for years been held up as a compromise solution granting the Palestinians autonomy without statehood.

"When we accepted the idea of a confederal relationship, it was to overcome political hurdles set up by Israel and the US," says

one official. "Now we say to the PLO: 'Enjoy the fruits of independence.'"

But demographic and economic factors prevent an easy divorce between Jordanians and Palestinians. More than 1 million of the estimated 2.3 million people living in the area east of the Jordan River are of Palestinian origin. Many of them have family ties across the river, on the West Bank.

Loyalties

"The King tells me I'm Jordanian, but my family across the river is Palestinian," says one East Bank resident of Palestinian background.

Jordanians include ethnic bedouins who, today, are as likely to be professors and doctors as nomads, but still retain strong tribal loyalties. A small but influential segment of this group are "Jordan-firsters." They are jealous of their position and care little for the ethnic Palestinians, most of whom arrived in Jordan as refugees from the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967.

Palestinians in Jordan are afraid that their loyalties may be put to the test, and that they may be harassed by security services if their allegiance to the crown is found wanting.

Many Palestinians on both banks of the Jordan River voice fears that restrictions may be imposed on their movement across the two bridges linking Jordan and the West Bank, despite assurances from King Hussein.

Hussein has already stopped paying salaries to 20,000 West Bank civil servants. Government officials say more measures are to come, as the King hands over responsibility for all aspects of the Palestinian question to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Uncertainty prevails among Palestinians and Jordanians as they await the new measures. Those who might be affected adversely are waiting in apprehension that borders on fear," said the Jordan Times in an editorial.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat says the PLO is capable of taking over Jordan's administrative role.

The PLO continues to insist that only it should represent the Palestinians and that an independent Palestinian state should be set up. Nevertheless, many PLO activists are believed to view some kind of confederation between the East and West Banks as inevitable. But to ensure that such a confederation is made up of equal halves, the PLO first wants to attain Palestinian independence.

"You cannot deny the ties between the two banks," says an ardent Palestinian nationalist in Amman. "There has to be a form of confederation, and the PLO will have to stress this, or it will alienate the East Bankers and Palestinians here, too."

In trying to detach Jordan from the West Bank and the Palestinian issue, Hussein, for his part, diplomats and observers say, will have to tread a careful line.

"The King will have to be very careful to be fair," says one well-placed Arab observer. "Extremist East Bank Jordanians are delighted with what has happened. They are influential, vocal, and ignorant."

"If he gives the wrong signals, these people will be encouraged to push (the King) ... to crack down on Palestinians and harass them. If (he) tilts too far, it could lead to civil strife."

Dangers

The King and his advisers are clearly aware of the dangers of civil dissension, and have stressed the need for "national unity" — implicitly, between East Bank Jordanians and citizens of Palestinian origin.

Their fear is that right-wing Israelis might exploit such dissension to promote their argument that Jordan should be the Palestinian state, since, they say, some 65 per cent of Jordan's population is Palestinian.

Something of a numbers game has developed. Officials here say the true figure is less than 40 per

cent, and they accuse Israelis of deliberately circulating higher estimates. This, said Hussein recently, is an attempt by some Israelis to suggest "that the Palestinians do not have a problem on Palestinian soil, but that they could form their state elsewhere. And elsewhere obviously has meant, in their minds, Jordan."

Some Western diplomats say economic ties make it a mistake to sever the East and West Banks.

"There are people who would like to isolate the Palestinian question and shut it off on the West Bank," says one diplomat. "It's not on ... if you start looking at the economics of it, it's disastrous — it simply doesn't make sense in economic terms."

Apart from trade and economic links between the two banks, Palestinians play a major role in Jordan's economy. Many who work overseas also make substantial remittances. The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



A refugee woman and her minor children wait in a long queue for relief goods at a camp in Dhaka where many of the inmates have been infected by diarrhoea as floodwater recedes slowly. (Reuters wirephoto).

Bangladesh floods

By Jonathan S. Landay

DHAKA, (UPI): The devastating floods inundating Bangladesh, the latest in a seeming unending cycle of natural calamities and political upheavals that dog the impoverished nation, have led to a mood of hopelessness.

There are grave doubts about Bangladesh's ability to recover from the staggering damage.

Despair is widespread in the nation of 110 million people and it is shared by international aid donors.

"We don't have any hope in the future of this country if these things continue," lamented Abdul Khayad, an impoverished street peddler living in a filthy, overcrowded relief camp. "How can the government give us help after the flood recedes?"

So far, the government has estimated damage to vital irrigation and flood control systems at \$1.2 billion and to roads and railways at \$150 million.

Hopeless
"If I look at the country as a whole, it appears hopeless," said Stafford Clarry, head of Care, the largest private international assistance group working in Bangladesh.

Foreign aid provides 40 per cent of the government budget.

Dr Khawja Huda, a sociologist and head of the Association of Development Agencies of Bangladesh, cites political reasons for the lack of faith as well as natural disasters.

Fifty years on from Munich

Appeasement is still a dirty word

By Patrick Worsnip

LONDON, (Reuters): Fifty years after Britain and France tried at Munich to placate Adolf Hitler and stave off World War II, the term coined to describe their efforts — appeasement — still has wide currency as a political insult.

The meeting in the Bavarian city on Sept 29-30, 1938, was portrayed by British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain as a last-ditch attempt to save world peace.

But the words "Munich" and "appeasement" went down in history as synonyms for an ignominious failure to buy off the Nazi dictator through the sacrifice of a small and helpless country, Czechoslovakia.

It was not always so, says British historian Lord Dacre (Hugh Trevor-Roper), who says that appeasement did not have a pejorative sense at the time of Munich, although it soon

Rising tide of misery

He blames a value system shaped by years of British colonial rule — and continued by a series of military governments — that prevents democratic participation and fosters corruption.

Formerly East Bengal, the predominantly Muslim nation was once a thriving land self-sufficient in food.

Historians trace the beginning of economic decline to British colonial exploitation which continued when the area became East Pakistan in the 1947 partition of the subcontinent between Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan.

Lost
East Pakistan lost its former Hindu business and intellectual classes and the financial capital, Calcutta, to India and its revenues were coveted by the capital, Islamabad, more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) away in West Pakistan.

Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger predicted Bangladesh would be an economic "basket case" when it gained independence through the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Prophecy was soon fulfilled in the political arena with a series of military coups in which two presidents were killed.

Although Lt Gen. Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who became president in a 1983 coup, has introduced limited

democracy, the military is still the major power centre, as it has been since independence.

Natural disasters have played havoc with development, with an estimated 5 million to 6 million people killed in 200 cyclones that have roared off the Bay of Bengal over the last 150 years.

Population
Perhaps the biggest drag now on the economy is the 2.5 per cent rate of population increase that by 2015 is projected to result in 180 million people — 3,000 per square mile.

The annual per capita income is only \$130, and with a surplus of labour and increasing landlessness among the rural poor, real wages are declining precipitously.

Most of the people eat only once a day under optimal conditions, illiteracy is rampant and health problems are widespread. The country has virtually no natural resources aside from hard-to-exploit gas. It even imports rocks from India to build roads.

Political insecurity, restrictive labour and commercial regulations and alleged corruption have retarded foreign investment.

As for domestic investment, one senior diplomat said: "There is a lack of faith by Bangladeshis in the future of their country. Most of them send their money out of the country."

Giraud and US Republican right-winger Jack Kemp called his medium-range missile treaty with Moscow a new Munich.

Historians say appeasement began when the Western powers failed to react to Hitler's despatch of troops into the demilitarised Rhineland in 1936. They again did nothing when he annexed Austria in March, 1938. At Munich, Chamberlain and French Prime Minister Edouard Daladier agreed that the Sudetenland, a largely German-speaking border area of Czechoslovakia, should be turned over to Germany.

As a result, Czechoslovakia soon disintegrated and when Hitler occupied Prague in March, 1939, Britain and France ended their appeasement policy and prepared for war, which broke out six months later. Chamberlain resigned as prime minister in 1940 and died in the same year.

By Sydney Rubin

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (AP): The heroin trade in Pakistan is gaining ground, diplomatic and law enforcement sources say.

They say heavily-armed poppy producers are expanding their fields into remote corners of the lawless Northwest Frontier Province. Meanwhile, heroin addiction in Pakistan's cities is growing swiftly.

The United States and several West European countries have expressed concern about drugs from Pakistan, which make their way to Western Europe through Iran and Turkey and also to North America. In meetings with Pakistan's late president, Mohammad Ziaul-Haq, the two issues most often raised by US President Ronald Reagan were Pakistan's purported interest in building an atomic bomb and drug trafficking in this nation.

Each year, Pakistan, like other countries linked to the drug trade, must obtain a certificate of good conduct required by US law. Countries that fail certification risk losing loans or aid from the United States and international organizations controlled by Washington.

Authorities estimate that 40 per cent of the heroin sold on US streets originates in Pakistan or crosses into the country from neighbouring Afghanistan.

Smuggle
Earlier this decade, it was already known that almost all the heroin processed in labs in the northwestern tribal belt bordering Afghanistan was smuggled in refined or semi-refined form to the United States or West Europe. But Pakistani officials did not consider the labs a serious problem until they started facing a growing number of addicts in Pakistan's own urban centres, according to Western diplomatic sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

According to conservative estimates, this nation of 107 million people now has 700,000 heroin addicts, more than double

Heroin addiction on the rise in Pakistan

the number of four years ago, said Sajjad Zahid, regional director of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board in Northwest Frontier Province.

Zahid said more than half the nation's addicts live in Karachi, the principal smuggling port, where one out of every nine young men is addicted.

"Frankly, heroin addiction is a bigger problem here than anywhere else in the world — including the United States," Zahid said.

Record
Diplomatic sources assert that in the past, Pakistan police have had a poor drug enforcement record. Not one of Pakistan's top drug smugglers has been arrested, drug experts in the capital of Islamabad said. Rumours abound of official involvement in drug smuggling.

"I think we have a fairly good record," said Dilshad Najmuddin, chairman of Pakistan's Narcotics Control Board. "But there are problems, just with drug enforcement in all other countries."

"We are as prone to corruption as any law-enforcement agency. There's a lot of money involved. We get cases of corruption on occasion, and we deal with them on a case-by-case basis."

Asked about the continued freedom of some top drug smugglers, he said: "It's true, the drug kings are hard to get. But they are often removed from the operation and it is difficult to prove anything against them. Again, this is true in all countries."

He said Pakistani police arrested seven major traffickers and shot two more in the past year.

Diplomats also hasten to point out that drug enforcement is hampered in the Northwest by the location of the poppy fields in tribal areas that are only marginally under the control of the cen-

tral government. Tribal people, who police themselves, do not believe poppy cultivation is a crime. Few are willing to give up the lucrative cash crop.

"There is not that much money to be made at the growing level. The huge profits are made by the dealers. But the growers make more money with poppies that they could with anything else," a diplomat in Islamabad said.

About 400 hectares (1,000 acres) of poppies in the Northwest were sprayed with herbicide last year, according to Zahid. But the area under cultivation has increased from 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) to 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) in the past two years, according to official estimates.

"And when you are successful in eradicating the crop in one area the growers just move to a more remote, more inaccessible, more lawless part of the territory," the diplomat said.

Some dealers use rocket launchers, machine guns and other weapons being used to fight the Afghan war a few kilometres (miles) away from the poppy field plantations. Anti-aircraft guns are mounted on mud fortifications to fire on helicopters spraying herbicide.

One drug expert in Islamabad said one tribal chief openly cultivates poppies, from which he makes opium and heroin. A 200-man private army defends his interests.

In the early 1980s, Pakistan produced an estimated 80 tons of heroin per year. By 1985, production was down to about 50 tons. But as the poppy fields have become harder for authorities to find and destroy, production has increased. About 100 tons of heroin could come from the Pakistan-Afghan border this year.

Sweden haunted by dead seals

By Alan Eisner

STOCKHOLM, (Reuters): The bloated carcasses of seals rotting on beaches have provided the most haunting images of Sweden's general election campaign.

The reproachful eyes of doomed seals, thousands of which have been stricken by a virus, stare out of several parties' campaign posters.

"The seals are the emotional symbol of the whole environmental issue which has dominated the campaign," said Soren Holmberg, a political scientist at Gothenburg University.

Traditional issues like the economy, taxes, the welfare state and defence have been pushed to the background in the run-up to the polls on Sept 18, when the Social Democratic Party is fighting to retain power against the challenge of the centre-right.

Uncomfortable
It has been an uncomfortable campaign for the ruling party, which has governed Sweden for 50 of the past 56 years. Apart from the environmental issue, it has been dogged by scandals relating to its handling of the hunt for the murderer of Prime Minister Olof Palme, and over illegal arms deals.

"What you see in the polls is the Social Democrats losing votes because of all the scandals, particularly the Palme murder scandal," said Torbjorn Larsson, of Stockholm University's Political Science Department.

The search for the lone gunman who struck down four-term Premier Palme in February 1986 has been a long series of fiascos for the ruling party which has cast a deep shadow over its claim to be Sweden's supreme purveyor of political com-

petence.

Only three months before the election, Justice Minister Anna-Greta Leijon was forced to resign, after it was disclosed that she had authorised a privately-funded covert investigation into the murder.

Economy
"The Social Democrats, who rightly feel that they have managed the Swedish economy well, have tried in vain to concentrate the minds of the electorate on matters such as unemployment and the economy," said London stockbrokers James Capel in an analysis of the election for foreign investors.

Stockholm University political scientist Rune Premfors said:

"The election has become a contest to see which party is most environmentally conscious, which is greenest."

"There is no proof that the seals are dying because of environmental factors. But that became irrelevant from the moment that the parties decided to make posters about it and discuss it as if it were an environmental catastrophe," he said.

The campaign has played into the hands of Sweden's Green Party, campaigning to enter parliament for the first time.

Recent opinion polls forecast that the Environmental Party will win up to 10 per cent of the vote and seize the parliamentary balance of power between left and right.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1613 — Turkey invades Hungary.
- 1752 — Britain adopts Gregorian calendar.
- 1774 — Russian pretender Pugachoff is delivered by Cossacks to Russian government following decisive defeat and he subsequently is executed.
- 1812 — Napoleon Bonaparte enters Moscow and Russians set fires throughout the city.
- 1829 — Treaty of Adrianople ends Russo-Turkish war.
- 1854 — Allied forces land unopposed in Crimea war with Russia.
- 1864 — Japan agrees to truce following attack by British. French and Dutch fleets in Shimonoeki Straits in reprisal for Japan's closing ports and expelling foreigners.
- 1911 — Peter Stolypin, Russian premier, is assassinated.
- 1918 — Austria-Hungary makes peace offer to allies in World War I.
- 1923 — Miguel Primo de Rivera assumes dictatorship in Spain.
- 1947 — Poland denounces Concordat with Roman Catholic Church.
- 1971 — China makes it clear it will refuse seat at United Nations while Chinese Nationalists remain.
- 1972 — US Senate approves US-Soviet agreement to freeze major part of their offensive nuclear arsenals for five years.
- 1987 — Report says unidentified warplane bombed barracks town in western Uganda near border with Zaire.

SCREEN

By Ivor Davis

"GOD didn't design anyone to be recognized by 2 billion people," says Peter Falk.

Wearing a baggy blue shirt, Falk looks more like a dock worker than a movie star, and has a voice to match. He is talking about the face people recognize as Lt. Columbo of the Los Angeles Police Department, whose raspy voice, cock-eyed squint, soggy cigar and disheveled raincoat have made him as famous as Hercule Poirot.

"Mind you," he continues, "I could be off a billion or two. I didn't count them personally."

Actually, his arithmetic is fairly accurate. Columbo is a legend worldwide even though the series has been absent from American television screens for a decade.

Now Falk, who turns 61 this month, announces that Columbo is making a comeback. Even better, the producers do not plan to change a thing, except possibly the detective's trademark raincoat. "I don't know whether this one can make it another season," he says, referring to the original coat he wore in the series from 1971-78. "I would like it to, but it's very thin. After all, the character was born in 1968." (Falk first portrayed Columbo for the TV movie Prescription: Murder.

Vote

"One day I got a call from a fellow with the State Department," says Falk. "Can I meet him in a hotel in Los Angeles? So I go and he explains that he has a problem with Romania. It seems that 'Columbo' is so popular there that they run it on Friday night, then again on Saturday for the folks who have to work on Friday. Anyway, the Romanian people didn't realize that we made only eight shows a year. The State Department guy tells me, 'The people think they're not getting them because the government put a quota on them.' Is it possible, asks the State Department guy, for me to go on Romanian TV, talk in phonetic Romanian and tell the people, 'It's not your government. We're getting them to you as fast as they come off the griddle?' (Falk did film a short segment for the Romanian government in the late '70s.)

"In Holland," he continues, "there was a big vote coming up in Parliament. If the opposition

Peter Falk solves case of missing Columbo series



Detective Columbo (Peter Falk) is questioned by one of his own during an investigation. A new series will be on the air in America soon.

won, the government would fall. On the first night the government presented its view. The next night it was the opposition's turn, only the government put on 'Columbo' opposite them. Now the whole issue becomes, can the government programme 'Columbo' while the opposition is on TV?

"I was in Peru making a movie," he says, referring to the recently released Vices. "We were 18,000 feet in the Andes with descendants of the Aztecs and suddenly they're running out of their houses yelling, 'Columbo, Columbo'."

Falk does have a few thoughts on why his character turned out to be a universal Everyman. "There's wisdom in him," he says. "He's a man who knows who he is. He's content with himself. He loves his wife and his work. He's not preoccupied with such shallow things as what car he drives or what label is on his suit. He doesn't worry that he may appear not very bright to people."

Falk is not unlike his alter ego. When he separated from his second wife Sherry in 1986 he moved into the guest house of their Beverly Hills home rather than race down to his lawyer's office. A year later he moved back. A man of simple tastes, he loves to smoke, drink coffee, dress casually and spend his spare time making charcoal, pencil and chalk drawings, which sell for \$500 and up.

If it had been up to Falk, Columbo would never have left the screen. But the actor refused to do as many episodes as NBC demanded. "I wanted to have enough time to pursue other things, such as movies," says Falk, who starred in The

In-Laws (1979) and ...All the Marbles (1981).

ABC-TV plans to air a new two-hour Columbo every three weeks as part of its Saturday night mystery-movie lineup, which will also include "Gideon Oliver" starring Louis Gossett Jr. and an as-yet-unnamed show featuring Burt Reynolds.

In addition to Vices, which co-stars Cyndi Lauper and Jeff Goldblum, Falk recently finished filming Cookie, a comedy-fantasy in which he plays a mobster opposite British actress Emily Lloyd. He is planning to star in a movie for director Elaine May, an old friend in need of a hit following the fiasco of last year's Ishtar.

Falk was not the first choice to play Columbo. Bing Crosby and Lee Cobb turned the part down. But Falk leapt at the part

as soon as he read the script. "When the format met Peter it was a marriage made in TV heaven," says William Link, a co-creator of the character and producer of the new Columbo. "The star really ignited the whole thing. Peter brought to it a humanity that wasn't on the page."

Worried

Falk wants it understood that he is not worried about being overidentified with one part. "The whole world knows the show, loves it and respects it and I'm supposed to be annoyed by that? You gotta be nuts," he says.

What does concern him though is how to live up to the high standard set by the original shows — not an easy task when you consider that Steven Bochco (L.A. Law, Hill Street Blues) wrote several of the earlier Columbo episodes and a 21-year-old newcomer named Steven Spielberg directed one.

"I remember that day," says Falk, laughing. "This kid shows up on the set. They tell me 'That's young Spielberg.' He looked about 14. I'm looking for his father whom I thought would be the director." Spielberg has requested, if his schedule permits, that he be allowed to direct the first new Columbo movie.

The list of actors who took on the thankless task of going head-to-head with Columbo in the role of the killer was a stellar one: Patrick McGovern, Donald Pleasence, Robert Culp and Ruth Gordon. According to Falk, he intends to continue with the same calibre of actor.

"We would love Laurence Olivier if his health would permit, and we've got a great one for Linda Hunt as a Doctor Ruth character."

The important thing is, he insists, that the audience not be disappointed. "We could turn out good shows and they still wouldn't measure up to the originals. The people have a standard by which they measure them," he says.

Cocking his head to one side, Falk fixes his good eye on me and says, "I'll be looking over their shoulder occasionally to make sure they're doing them right."

Can you picture it? Falk, shuffling into his producer's office, says, "Great show, Bill. Then, as he starts to leave, "Oh, just one more thing that's really bothering me..."

Racism theme in new Costa-Gavras film

By Russell Kishi

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): Film-maker Constantin Costa-Gavras has never shied away from volatile subjects that can provoke and disturb audiences. His new film is bound to get similar responses but he says "the most important reaction is silence."

His 1968 movie Z, a political film that chronicled the killing of a Greek parliament member, won an Academy Award for best foreign language film.

He and co-writer Donald Stewart also won Oscars in 1982 for their screenplay of Missing, a political thriller that focused on Chile's military rule and an American father's search for his son in that country.

His latest movie, Betrayed, addresses the issue of racism in America and radical cult groups that will use any means and go to any lengths to further their cause.

The film might be considered a counterpoint to Birth Of A Nation, the 1915 epic by D.W. Griffith that portrayed the Ku Klux Klan in a heroic light.

Costa-Gavras, 55, said it would not be farfetched to present Betrayed — with the subtitle, Death of a Nation.

Web In Betrayed, Debra Winger plays an undercover agent investigating the murder of a radical talk show host and discovers a racist cult that is fiercely dedicated to violent random attacks on blacks, Jews, homosexuals and politicians who don't share their philosophical view.

The movie presents a tangled web of relationships that are complicated further when Winger falls in love with one of the cult's most vocal members, played by Tom Berenger.

"If a nation falls into these kinds of hands, that kind of ideology, it is the death of a nation," he says.

A preview screening of Betrayed in Los Angeles occurred within days of the controversy generated by the film Colors, a depiction of gang warfare in Los Angeles



Director Costa-Gavras: the most important reaction is silence

that sparked protests from a number of groups, including the NAACP.

At the screening, a white woman suddenly stood up and shouted repeatedly, "all white people are not like that."

Costa-Gavras, who was standing in the back of the auditorium, said the woman was escorted out of the theater.

"Before she left, there was a young black man who turned around and said to her, 'madam, go around the country. There are more people like that than you think,'" he said.

"The people at United Artists wanted me to make some kind of statement, some response. I said, 'No, no way.' Of all reactions to the film, this was the only one that was so exaggerated."

"The biggest, the most important reaction, is silence," Costa-Gavras said. "At the very end, I have seen just people staying in their seats, very quiet. It says to me that they

have followed the movie very carefully.

Just as Z was based on real events, Betrayed has been similarly fashioned, and again, said Costa-Gavras, the similarity is intentional.

"Racism is not so small," Costa-Gavras said. "This movie is an examination of all of the implications of racism, to show where it could lead if it is not checked. Just as it did in Germany with the Nazis."

However, despite the dark portrait he paints in Betrayed, he did temper the film with a note of optimism.

"I do not think such a philosophy can take hold here," Costa-Gavras said. "This system of democracy is too strong. And if you follow the movie carefully, you see that they did not find a leader."

"A movement like this needs a leader. The phenomenon, this xenophobia, is very huge. But it needs a leader to capitalize on that fear."

Brainy Brooke is back ... as a diamond thief

By Alex Molloy

PRETTY Baby Brooke Shields may have grown up into a university graduate, but she has never forgotten her Hollywood roots. And now she is back where she belongs... in front of the cameras.

The girl who took a break from show-business to win a degree at Princeton University is making a new TV movie called The Great Diamond Trap.

And Brooke is definitely the biggest jewel around. Film insiders say that Brooke, who plays a photographer turned jewel thief, has never acted so well or looked so beautiful.

The movie, which also stars former Twigg will not be shown until 1989.

But beauty is something that Brooke Shields has more than her fair share of. Before she was even a year old she was a hugely successful model and by the time she was 14 she had been hailed the most beautiful girl in the world.

Now she can command over one million dollars a movie and her name has become an American institution... just like Mickey Mouse and apple pie.

But Brooke has had to put up with more than just screaming fans and child stardom. The sexy stunner has the most notorious stage mother of them all.

Graduated

Even so, in the summer of 1987, Brooke graduated along with the rest of her class, in French literature, looking happy, relaxed and slim. Her unhappy early college days when she was shunned by fellow students and gained two stone (12.7 kg) in weight have long since been forgotten. And a crash diet has restored her former stunning figure.

Yet, just months before it had seemed that with mother Teri's help Brooke would become an eternal bimbo, Brooke, who signed a contract with the publishers of her autobiography On Your Own, promising to stay a virgin until she was 20, had other ideas though. The result is that at 23, though, Brooke has become Hollywood's most polished star.

And she has only done it by helping her mother beat her addiction to booze.

Superstar Brooke Shields obviously learned a lot at Princeton University where she recently won a degree in French literature. Now she is back in front of the camera looking as gorgeous as ever ... to play a diamond thief.

realised that my mother had a serious drinking problem. She and my father are divorced, so there was no one to talk over her life with except little me. I became her parent and she became my child. If she got drunk in a restaurant, I'd help her home. If she passed out on the couch, I'd cover her up."

The beautiful teen-ager was heartbroken by her mother's behaviour and she soon began to fear going home after school. On the outside she appeared a

self-assured girl on the brink of womanhood, but inside she was a frightened child who felt unloved and angry. It was after one incident that Brooke found the courage to ask for help.

She remembers: "Mother was never abusive but she would get mad at every little thing and sometimes her anger would turn to violence. Once she threw a plate at me, she felt awful about it afterwards and I played up my hurt because I wanted to make her

feel bad."

"When I did that, I realised that we both needed specialist help. My aunt and I contacted doctors who knew how to treat alcoholism. They told me that she would have to go away for rehabilitation, so I packed her bag and told her that she was leaving on the five o'clock flight."

"She was gone for six weeks. It was difficult for her at the hospital, because she went there as Brooke Shields' mother. But she stuck it out, got well and somehow kept her wonderful sense of humour through it all. She would send me post cards on which she had written 'Greetings from the looney bin...'

But mother and daughter did pull through and at last they began to feel like parent and child again. Brooke explains: "Once I accepted she was truly

cured. I really began to appreciate our new beginning. We began to rebuild our relationship as mother and daughter."

Yet critics of Teri Shields say she was far from being the perfect mother even before her drinking problem. The world was shocked when Teri let the ten-year-old Brooke pose for a nude photo session and star in the notorious movie Pretty Baby, about child prostitution.

But Brooke is her mother's staunchest supporter. She says: "My film career almost ended as soon as it had begun. When I was 12, I decided that I never wanted to make another movie because of the controversy over my role in Pretty Baby."

"I had just finished filming and some newspapers and magazines tried to make it seem as if I was a child being forced to

do something against my will. It really upset me. No matter how many times I told people that I had enjoyed making the film and that I was not unhappy with the theme, my words were always twisted to say the opposite."

Pride

"My feelings of pride and success were destroyed by the hideous portrayal of my mother by the press. I was shocked and upset to read time and time again that my mother, whom I look up to and love, was a horrible pushy woman who had forced me into doing the film."

Brooke carried on making films and with movies like The Blue Lagoon and Endless Love proved she could act as well as look good. The lure of Hollywood's bright lights didn't dazzle Brooke completely though. She also enjoyed working hard at high school almost as much as she did hob-nobbing with the likes of Bob Hope, Bo Derek and Dudley Moore.

Brooke was one of the brightest students at high school and won a coveted place at Princeton University. But although she seemed to have everything going for her, her first months of college life were unhappy and deeply lonely.

She recalls: "When I first went to Princeton no one would talk to me. I was shattered. Everyone thought I was just playing at being a student. They all thought that it would be cool to ignore me and I was heartbroken."

Brooke's only comfort while she was first at college was food. She managed to blot her sexy shape by stuffing herself with hamburgers, hotdogs and fizzy drinks. She began to wish she had never gone to college.

Popular

She remembers: "I would call home to my mother every night in tears telling her that I wanted to come home." But Teri told Brooke to give Princeton a chance and eventually she began to fit in. She says: "We did a multiple choice psychology test and I finished near the top of the class and that is when people started getting friendly. They started to call me the psychology goddess."

Suddenly Brooke was popular. Everybody wanted to be her friend. Brooke was



Brooke Shields: when she first went to Princeton, nobody would talk to her because they thought she was play-acting at being a student

happy, she dropped all the weight she had put on and fell happily into the role of student.

When the class graduated, her fellow classmates seemed pleasantly protective of her... not talking to the press and comforting her when she cried under the pressure. One said: "Brooke is just an ordinary girl, she could be any of us, she is prettier than all."

Another revealed: "She was one of the hardest workers here." When Brooke was asked if she had anything to say she replied: "Only that I did this myself. I worked hard and it took me four years, but I did it all on my own."

Now Brooke is the only actress in Hollywood who can discuss French writers while dating stars who range from Michael Jackson to George Michael. At the age of 23, she has a dozen movies and a multi-million dollar fortune under her belt. Brooke is a shrewd business woman as well as an intellectual and she is certainly

not the sort of girl who would let any man stand in the way of her career.

She says: "George Michael and I dated quite a few times. We had great fun together and he was a real gentleman. But in the end he told me that it was career before romance for both of us and I agree."

Yet behind Brooke's fairy-tale image is the knowledge that hundreds of mad men wish to do her harm. One even wrote saying that if she did not have sex with him he would shoot. President Reagan.

Brooke manages to shrug off the threats as all being part of her job. A job that exposed her ten-year-old naked body to the world, made her fat and made her thin, stopped her having love affairs and caused psychopaths to stalk her, so that she is always with a body guard.

Yet she still keeps smiling and says she likes to see the good in everyone. So maybe Brooke Shields was not so badly brought up after all.



Brooke Shields with her parents. Friends say her mother Teri Shields was far from being the perfect mother.

OUTLOOK

By Kathy Cuddihy

SO far, the summer has produced a lot of house guests, some anticipated (and invited), others quite unexpected. In the latter category appeared someone not just "out of the blue" but also very much out of my past — my oldest friend, someone I had known for 28 years.

Twenty-eight years, for goodness sake! Who needs to be reminded that one is old enough to know people for that long?

Although we had an inseparable friendship in childhood and adolescence, my travels and her ongoing studies caused our communications to become more and more sporadic over the years. It had been five years since I last saw Marilyn, my former alter-ego. That had been a brief encounter with a number of other people around. Would we have anything to talk about after such a long time? Would we have anything in common any more?

My fears were allayed almost the minute she stepped off the train and her tall, lanky form came lumbering toward me in that familiar eager way. My young son, Kieran, silently surveyed the newcomer with the critical, unsparing eye that children have. "Do you know any jokes?" he asked testily.

"Sure, have you heard the one about ...?" came Marilyn's easy reply. And the bond was made. By the time we arrived home, Kieran solemnly aired his appraisal: "My sister will be delighted with you."

This was confirmed when Tara, too, was rapidly overwhelmed by Marilyn's charm and wit.

Besides having seemingly endless store of jokes and riddles, Marilyn was a talented artist. She could entertain the kids for hours with her sketches and an amusing exercise she called "scribbles": everyone scribbled on a piece of

Revealing memories



paper for a couple of seconds and then, simultaneously, passed the paper to the person on the left, who had to create a recognisable drawing from the scribble.

The creative portion of the scribble session was a restful period that often encouraged conversation ... and reminiscence. Marilyn and I happily recalled events, adventures and misadventures of our youth, a preoccupation which fascinated the children.

"Tell us stories about when Mom was young," they would beg.

"I'm still young," I would remind them, before Marilyn launched into her tales of long ago. What astounding recollection the woman had! Episodes of my life that I had either naturally or deliberately

forgotten were indiscriminately revealed.

At this point it is important to note that Marilyn is unmarried. Although she has taught art to children for years, not having any children of her own makes her unaware of some of the subtle ground rules which parents carefully establish for their own protection.

I had spent a decade carefully establishing a reputation of a responsible parent who had led an exemplary childhood. In a matter of days my so-called friend had inconsiderately destroyed everything with her revelations of my past.

Of course, the children's enthusiasm fuelled her on, but surely she should have had the decency to at least modify some of the endings. Especially when she saw me jumping up and

down waving my arms in frantic hand signals.

Almost everything we did together triggered one of Marilyn's dreaded memories. An afternoon of pony trekking seemed harmless enough until Marilyn suddenly said, "Did your Mom ever tell you about the time she crept into a field, caught a black stallion, and rode him like the wind until he finally threw her off his back?"

"No," breathed my awed children. "What happened?"

"Do we really need to hear the rest of this?" I interrupted.

"Of course we do. It's a great story. Children should know that their parents are human, not paragons of virtue perched on a pedestal."

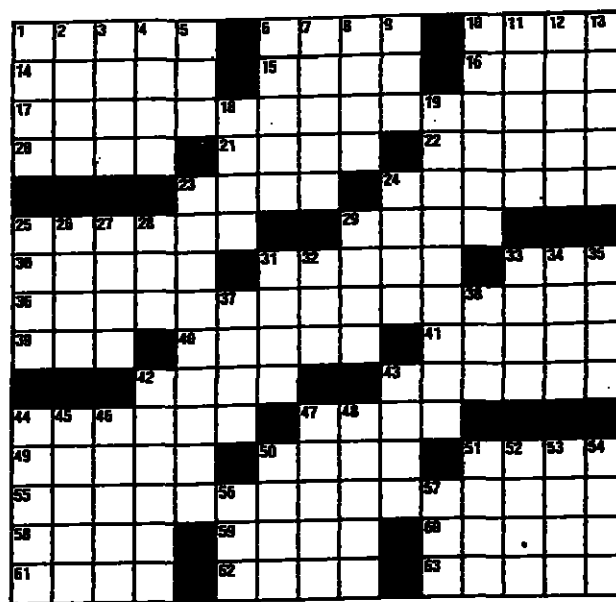
"Well, Marilyn I think you'll certainly have achieved that goal by the time you leave us. When did you say you were leaving?"

Easy-going Marilyn merely smiled ... and continued with her status-wrecking policies. Efforts to instill discipline in the children fell by the wayside as Marilyn always betrayed my own youthful lapses. When I refused to let the children hitch-hike to the village nine miles away, Marilyn remembered the time I had hitch-hiked 120 miles (without parental permission) to be with her on her 13th birthday.

To my despair and the children's delight, a childhood that I had sincerely portrayed as being innocent and uneventful was being unravelled with all the drama, mischief, and humour of a TV mini-series.

Marilyn finally decided to move on, but not before she had seriously tarnished my saintly image. I'm not sure if the children think better of me or worse, but I do know that their own antics don't seem nearly as naughty anymore ... now that I view them in the proper perspective.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Hammett sleuth
6 Olav V's capital
10 King —
14 Penthouse
15 Ananias
16 Wyandot's kin
17 Blew the whistle
20 Official mark
21 Change course
22 Hand out
23 Be undecided
24 Malay dagger: Var.
25 Lizzie —
29 Anchor
30 Forcefully
31 Religious belief
33 Trendy
36 Deals straight
39 Wrath
40 Color
41 Marta of the movies
42 Soccer great
43 — lane
44 Role for Ben Gazzara
47 Awake
49 Legals homo
50 Merit
51 Shade of blue
55 Deals straight
58 Other
59 Winfield of baseball
60 Aromatic seed
61 Symbol of blindness
62 Pamplona

DOWN

1 Lip
2 "Le Moko"
3 "Turnandot" highlight
4 Salad ingredient
5 Elusive one
6 Of yore
7 Located
8 "The Cowardly Lion"
9 Tram load
10 Ruby of the Silver Screen
11 Priestly wear
12 Mexican tykes
13 "Beau —"
18 Make uniform
19 Weather indicator
23 Guilty persons, usually
24 Snug, in Scotland
25 Island east of Java
26 A Bradley
27 Martha, the comedienne
28 Before play or pleasure
29 Pittance
31 Complete
32 Homebase for the RAF
33 Joan of art
34 Unique person
35 Reject

ACROSS

37 Root unit
38 Herbert of films
42 Canvassed
43 Weasel's cousin
44 Supply victuals
45 Designer
46 Flutter
47 Healing agent
48 Strains
50 Catchall abbr.
51 Simone of song
52 Off-balance
53 Tool with jaws
54 North Sea feeder
56 Altar agreement
57 Chomp

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SPAS GRAFT BLEED
LOST RULER LIPO
OLEO EDEMA USES
BLACK EYE VEEPEE
KENS DEEM
TINSEL YELLOWER
ADO LEMON SORGO
FILM TIBER NOGS
IOTAS LIBEL TEE
AMERICAN DOWERS
IRON SLOE
MANGER WHITECAP
OLIO ASIAN DALE
TOLL LADLE EVEN
HEED STETS RIST

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ74 ♥J8 ♦A87 ♣A654
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♣ Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?
A.—While you do have 15 prime points, your hand contains no fillers. (As a matter of fact, it would be better for a suit contract than no trump.) Even if partner has conservatively rebid one no trump with 10 or 11 points, game would be doubtful. Pass.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q92 ♥Q10673 ♦8762 ♣5
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—In terms of point count you do not have enough to act (don't add 2 points for a singleton in partner's suit). However, it is seldom wise to pass partner's minor-suit opening when you have a fair five-card major, so we would stretch a point or two and respond one heart.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K1052 ♥AJ32 ♦95 ♣82
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ DBL ?

What action do you take?
A.—Redouble to tell partner you have a good hand. Your best result could come from a penalty double of the opponents should they land in a major-suit contract. If they happen to alight in diamonds, a subsequent spade bid by you will give partner a fair picture of your hand.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠93 ♥KQ87 ♦A954 ♣Q83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ DBL ?

What action do you take?
A.—As before, you show a strong hand by redoubling. The fact that you have a fit for partner's suit is no deterrent—you intend jump raising hearts at your next turn. Any immediate raise of hearts would be preemptive, and could result in missing a game.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J93 ♥K85 ♦Q72 ♣A8763
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ DBL ?

What action do you take?
A.—You have a smattering of points and a balanced hand. That is precisely the message you can transmit to partner by bidding one no trump. Note that it is the same bid you would have made had there been no interference from the enemy.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ76 ♥KQ ♦K3 ♣K102
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Pass, but with a great deal of confidence. Partner's jump to game is preemptive, so he denies two aces. Therefore, there is no need to jeopardize your contract by making any sort of slam probe.

Are you the perfect partner?

By Marina Shamoon

1. On St Valentine's Day, do you...
(a) send your partner a card?
(b) prepare a romantic dinner for two?
(c) do nothing, you don't believe in St Valentine's day?
(d) send someone else a card?

2. Do you tell your partner you love them...
(a) every day?
(b) whenever they say they love you?
(c) when they buy you a gift?
(d) never...you hate being romantic?

3. When your partner comes home late, do you...
(a) accuse them of seeing someone else?
(b) believe that they have been working late?
(c) go out yourself?
(d) have dinner and a kiss waiting for them?

4. When you go out, do you...
(a) decide where to go
(b) leave the decision to your partner?
(c) both of you discuss it?
(d) faint. You hardly ever go out?

5. In the morning, do you...
(a) get up and make breakfast?
(b) wait for breakfast to be brought to you?
(c) race out of the house without saying goodbye?
(d) say nothing. You hate the mornings?

6. When you have an argument, do you...
(a) apologise first?
(b) refuse to talk to them for a week?
(c) discuss the situation rationally?
(d) go home to your mother?

7. Your partner invites their boss home to dinner, do you...
(a) prepare a Cordon Bleu meal?
(b) make an excuse for not being there?
(c) buy a takeaway?
(d) take care of all the arrangements, so they can take care of their boss?

8. How often do you do the washing up?
(a) Always.
(b) Never.
(c) Sometimes.

Do you have what it takes to be the perfect partner? Are you romantic, funny and serious when you should be? And, do you know when to get annoyed and when to be supportive and when to say 'yes' and when to say 'no'? Do this fun quiz and find out how you rate in the perfect partner stakes



(d) Only when ordered to.

9. When you are at a party, do you...
(a) cling to your partner?
(b) flirt with other guests?
(c) talk to others, but keep a wary eye on your other half?
(d) worry constantly in case they go off with someone else?

10. When you are out with your partner and someone far better looking than them walks by, do you...
(a) ignore them?
(b) notice but not show it?
(c) stare and wolf whistle?
(d) attract their attention?

11. How much time do you and your partner spend together?
(a) everyday.
(b) weekends.
(c) every other week.

12. Do you change your plans to suit your partner...
(a) all the time?
(b) never?
(c) sometimes?
(d) only if there is a very good reason?

13. Your partner's mother invites you round for Sunday lunch. Do you...
(a) say you're busy?
(b) say you're going to your mother's?
(c) accept?
(d) worry about what you should wear?

14. When you see your partner talking to a member of the opposite sex do you...
(a) leave them?
(b) join them?
(c) go up and punch them?

(d) know they have eyes only for you?

15. When your partner goes away for a weekend, do you...
(a) pine for them?
(b) have the time of your life?
(c) get angry they wouldn't dream of going away without you?
(d) hope they never come back.

How see how you scored...

	a	b	c	d
1.	10	15	5	0
2.	15	10	5	0
3.	5	10	0	15
4.	0	10	15	5
5.	15	5	0	10
6.	15	5	10	0
7.	15	0	10	5
8.	10	0	15	5
9.	15	0	10	5
10.	15	10	0	5
11.	15	10	5	0
12.	15	5	10	0
13.	5	10	15	0
14.	5	10	0	15
15.	15	0	10	5

What your score means:

0-75:
Why bother to have a partner when all you are really interested in is flirting with the opposite sex. As soon as your lover's back is turned you run into the arms of someone else. Just think how you would feel if you were treated the same way. Stop thinking about yourself all the time... otherwise you are bound to be ditched...and it will serve you right.

75-150:
You like to have the best of both worlds. You enjoy a steady relationship but also like your independence. You know when you are being selfish, but you go ahead anyway. Love is about giving AND taking...so make sure you get the balance right. You obviously know what romance is so why don't you start practicing the art.

150-225:
You live your life through your partner. Their wishes always come first and you are only happy if they are. But be careful you don't end up with someone who takes advantage of you. Now and again try saying "no" to them. It will probably do you and them a lot of good. Either you're partner is absolutely wonderful...or you really are dream come true.

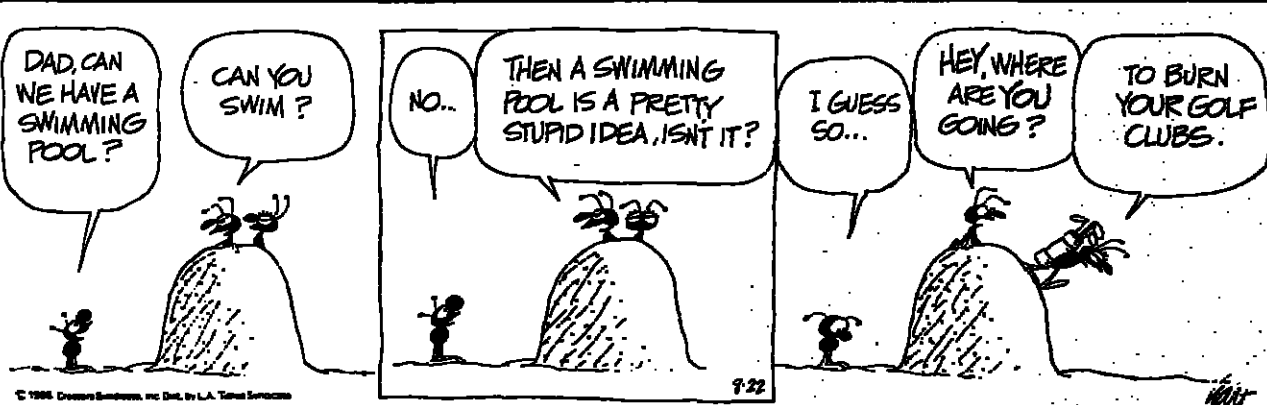
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You are rather too liable to chase phantoms. You should not allow yourself to think negatively. Make sure you do not put your health at risk. Be more patient.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should not wait too long before dealing with a matter that has to be dealt with sooner or later. You will have some success but you must not let it go to your head. Try not to live in a dreamworld. Be generous.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will be better able to meet your commitments. Spend more time reading than watching television. Do not allow some leisure interest to become an obsession with you. Be explicit.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will be able to deal with a problem that has been worrying you. You should not try to be all things to all men. Listen to what others are saying more closely. Be objective.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be able to do something that you had long wanted to do. You should try to show just a little more goodwill. Do not spend too long chatting on the phone. Be tolerant.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will be tempted to do too many things all at once. You must beware of driving too fast and too far without a break. Do not make any rash promises. Be amenable.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should do all you can to overcome a persistent resentment. You should not mistake something that is only transitory for something that is here to stay. Have a little more faith in yourself. Be generous.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be able to make good use of a rare opportunity. Make sure you do not allow yourself to get into a muddle. Beware of confusing what you would like to be with what is. Be tactful.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You are subject to prevalently good influences but you must not trust too much to luck. Do not neglect the emotional side of your life. You will be a little disappointed but there are things to be grateful for. Be tactful.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You must take better care of your finances. Avoid getting too much into debt. Do not allow others to influence you. Be a little more frank but not glib.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

It would be quite wrong to throw caution to the wind. You will more easily get tired and should refrain from overdoing things. Avoid being cruel to others; they might do the same to you one day. Be loyal.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will have to get a move on if you want to meet your commitments in time. Do not think it is too late to learn anything new. You should avoid becoming involved in what does not concern you. Be less glib.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Denmark pressing for solution to EEC tariffs on Gulf petrochemicals

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 13, (AP). Denmark is pressing for a "liberal" solution to the European Economic Community tariffs on Gulf petrochemicals, Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said here yesterday.

The GCC and EEC earlier this year signed a general trade agreement but kept the petrochemical issue pending, with the GCC insisting on a reciprocal treatment from the EEC that would mean elimination of tariffs on Gulf petrochemicals.

Ellemann-Jensen told the Associated Press that the issue would definitely be on the agenda of the next meeting between the EEC and the GCC in New York this month, as the meeting would discuss the second phase of the co-operation agreement as previously planned by the two blocs.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE countries where oil and oil-related industries are the backbone of the economy.

Demand

The minister said he sympathised with the GCC demand for tariff-free entry for the products of their new petrochemical industry into the EEC market, as he did with the EEC members who advocate tariffs, due to their economic and unemployment difficulties.

The Danish foreign minister arrived in Abu Dhabi on Friday at the end of a three-nation Gulf tour. He was accompanied by a delegation of over 50 members, about 40 of them businessmen.

Ellemann-Jensen held extensive talks here with businessmen at the Chambers of Commerce and Industry as well as with the economic and political leadership of the UAE.

Talks included possible UAE-Danish joint ventures in agriculture and foodstuffs. The Danish minister expressed interest in the end of the Gulf war, which he said should open up prospects for Danish-Gulf co-operation.

Good scope for yarn exports to Pakistan

BOMBAY, Sept 13. — A high power Indian textile delegation felt that there is very good scope for exporting to Pakistan some of the Indian goods like polyester fibre, cotton yarn of finer counts, industrial fabrics and textile machinery.

The mission headed by S.K. Modi, the chairman of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation, had visited Pakistan at the invitation of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) in May 1988.

The delegation had very fruitful discussions with the representatives of APTMA, Cotton Export Corporation, Export Promotion Bureau and Karachi Cotton Association and gathered a wealth of information on various aspects of the textile industry of Pakistan.

The mission members also visited a few modern mills in Pakistan and were quite impressed by the quality consciousness, managerial competence, productivity and profitability.

UK inflationary pressure likely to increase

LONDON, Sept 13, (KUNA). The cost of goods leaving British factories rose by 4.9 per cent in the year to August, the highest rate of increase in almost three years, according to government figures released here Monday.

Last month the producer price index, regarded as an important inflation indicator, rose by 0.4 per cent, taking the year-on-year figure to its near 5 per cent level, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) statistics revealed.

Observers noted that inflationary pressures in the economy are likely to increase once the factory price rises are passed on to consumers.

However, the DTI figures also showed that industry's "input prices" of fuel and raw materials fell by 0.2 per cent in August, with the year-on-year increase slowing from 4.3 to 3.9 per cent.

But other figures released today showed that Britain's consumer boom, which has led to increased imports and a massive balance of trade deficit, has not yet been slowed by several recent interest rate rises, observers pointed out.

Retail sales in August rose by 0.5 per cent to a new high following July's 2 per cent hike, the DTI statistics showed.

Team to meet Khorafi, Sheikh Ali

Bankers offer CB German Index Fund

By M.C. Bose

AFTER a two-year decline, the German Stock Market has embarked on a medium-term upward course, according to West German bankers.

"In the next few months we expect the German Stock Market to register above-average performance," said Eberhard Spliker, who is part of a 14-member team currently visiting Kuwait.

They are here to tap the potential investment market and offer the first index fund for German shares, the CB German Index Fund.

The bankers were addressing a seminar on German know-how in International Investment Banking.

Strong

They say that contrary to recent reports, the German economy is "basically sound and economic growth will be notably stronger than last year. Business activity in West Germany experienced an unexpected strong surge over the first few months of 1988. Since the economic outlook has become brighter in other industrial countries as well, West Germany's gross national product (GNP) is expected to expand by about 2.5 per cent in real terms this year.

The leader of the delegation, Martin Kohlhausen, told the Arab Times that their visit is "purely economic and not a fact-finding or political mission."

Kohlhausen, who is a member of the board of managing directors of the Commerzbank,

said he shares "Kuwait's hopes for an enduring peace settlement in the region and we didn't come here to review financing of projects in either Iraq or Iran."

The bankers have been visiting Kuwait regularly for the last 13 years and frequently came to this country during the Gulf war.

Kohlhausen said they will meet Kuwait's finance minister and the oil minister today.

Investment

Yesterday, they conducted a seminar on investment banking at the Sheraton Hotel to offer the CB German Index Fund. They said investing in German equities will no longer require the expensive and time-consuming effort of selecting, analysing and monitoring individual stocks. "Buying the market through an index fund is a one-step action," they said.

The CB German Index Fund was developed by Commerz International Capital Management, a Frankfurt subsidiary of the bank specialising in portfolio management for international institutional investors. The fund will be administered by another Commerzbank offshoot, Luxembourg-based CB German Index Fund Management Company, S.A.

Dietrich-Kurt Frowein, a member of the bank's board of managing directors said the fund is aimed at performing closely in line with the Commerzbank Share Index. The fund whose composition is regularly optimised, currently represents 85 per cent of the market capitalisation of the stocks included in



Martin Kohlhausen (third from left) pictured with other participants.



Some of those who attended the seminar.

that index and roughly 90 per cent of their house turnover.

Instrument

The bankers expect the fund to become a "convenient low-cost instrument for international investors." The German bond market, the third largest in the

world after the US and Japan, can look back on two turbulent years.

The yields of 10-year Federal government bonds fluctuated between 5.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent in 1987.

After the stock market crash in

October 1987, interest rates slipped to 6.2 per cent, only to edge back up to 6.9 per cent by the spring and summer of this year.

The team, which has already visited Saudi Arabia, will go to Bahrain and Abu Dhabi later this week.

New data cheers West Germans ahead of IMF meeting

FRANKFURT, Sept 13, (Reuters). West Germany will be playing host to a series of monetary meetings in West Berlin later this month cheered by better-than-expected figures on the performance of its economy, Western Europe's biggest.

But economists say West Germany may yet be criticised at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank for still not getting its policies quite right.

"There could be mild pressure on the Germans to do something to take a longer-term look," said

Richard Reid, chief European economist with British brokers UBS-Phillips and Drew.

Questions could be raised about whether West Germany is doing all it can to fulfil pledges to stoke up its economy, and help maintain global expansion, which it made last year under the 'Loose' accord on policy coordination among leading non-communist industrial nations.

Expansion

But the government last week released statistics showing gross national product (GNP) rose by a year-on-year 3.9 per cent in the

first half of this year, the strongest expansion in nearly a decade.

The newly released Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg predicted real growth for the whole year would be about three per cent, after 1.7 per cent in 1987.

It also made it possible for the government to rebuke skeptics who had said that an official January forecast of only 1.5 to two per cent expansion this year was optimistic.

But French Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy last week urged West Germany to do even more

to stimulate growth.

More serious, according to Deutsche Bank senior economist Norbert Walter, are criticisms by international economic organisations such as the IMF and the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Restrictions

The OECD has long said West Germany must break down the tangle of restrictions and regulations on the economy which it says hamper supply-oriented growth.

This point was raised again last week by Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the IMF.

"Like many other countries, the Federal Republic allows itself a whole series of restrictions on growth. Ailing branches of industry are subsidised here, the farming sector is protected there and so on," Camdessus told the West German business weekly, Wirtschaftswoche.

He also said Bonn should stoke up its domestic demand in line with the common strategy of major industrial nations.

Oil prices rebound

King Fahd calls for output restraint

BAHRAIN, Sept 13, (Reuters). Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was quoted yesterday as urging OPEC and non-OPEC producers to restrain output as oil prices in world markets hit two-year lows.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said the kingdom was against any kind of OPEC ministerial gathering.

"What the agencies are reporting are false. The kingdom is always the first to respond to attend any meeting agreed by OPEC," Nazer was quoted as saying.

The agency said the minister was responding to a question on reports that the drop in oil prices was due to Saudi opposition to a new meeting of the group's price monitoring committee.

The price panel, comprising oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela, Algeria and Indonesia, met last month in Switzerland but no date was fixed for another gathering.

Panel

Oil markets are waiting anxiously for the panel to gather as it has powers to call an emergency ministerial meeting of the 13-member body, which could take measures to cut output.

A recent Reuters survey estimated the OPEC output, including Iraq, for August around 20 million BPD. Oil industry analysts estimate the demand for OPEC crude at 18.5 million barrels per day, saying the balance feeds the market glut.

Iraq refuses to abide with its

lower spot market levels.

A Reuters survey estimated Saudi output in August at 4.9 million barrels per day.

Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, in remarks carried by the SPA, denied a report by the Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter Middle East Economic Survey that the kingdom was against any kind of OPEC ministerial gathering.

"What the agencies are reporting are false. The kingdom is always the first to respond to attend any meeting agreed by OPEC," Nazer was quoted as saying.

The agency said the minister was responding to a question on reports that the drop in oil prices was due to Saudi opposition to a new meeting of the group's price monitoring committee.

The price panel, comprising oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela, Algeria and Indonesia, met last month in Switzerland but no date was fixed for another gathering.

Organisation output rose to around 20 million barrels daily in August, according to some industry estimates, well above the world's requirement for OPEC oil of about 18.5 million.

Venezuela has formally requested a special meeting of OPEC's price-monitoring committee because it feels oil prices have reached a "critical point," Energy Minister Julio Cesar Gil said yesterday.

In New York, oil futures prices took a dramatic plunge on Monday, dropping 28 cents to \$13.90 a barrel in early trading, the lowest level since October 1986.

Analysts said prices could continue to slide as the market tries to absorb an oversupply of oil created by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Preparations

Gil indicated Venezuela would favour an extraordinary OPEC conference prior to November's regular meeting with sufficient "prior preparations so it would not have counterproductive effects on the market."

"I would not rule out a meeting of any kind before the ordinary conference," Gil told a news conference. "We believe that a meeting, at least of the price monitoring committee, which can call an extraordinary conference, would be convenient."

He said Venezuela's yearly oil income would be an estimated \$7.2 billion, about \$1 billion less than oil industry estimates made earlier this year and well below the \$9.1 billion for 1987.

US corn crop at 5-year low

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (AP). This year's drought-battered US corn harvest is estimated at a 5-year low of 4.46 billion bushels, down 37 per cent from 7.06 billion bushels harvested in 1987 but down by less than 1 per cent from the forecast a month ago, the Agriculture Department said yesterday.

The new figures were based on field surveys as of Sept 1. In May and June, before drought had tightened its grip, USDA "projected" the corn harvest — based on trends and an assumption of normal weather — at 7.3 billion bushels. But those projections were revised downward in July to 5.2 billion bushels, assuming farmers got normal weather the remainder of the season. And in August the forecast was lowered to 4.46 billion bushels, the smallest harvest since 1983 when drought and federal acreage curbs reduced output to 4.17 billion bushels. The soy bean harvest was estimated at a 12-year low of 1.47 billion bushels, down 23 per cent from 1.9 billion bushels produced last year but virtually unchanged from the August forecast.

—Prospects last spring called for about 1.88 billion bushels, and the July projection was 1.65 billion bushels. Production of all wheat was indicated at 1.81 billion bushels, down 14 per cent from 2.1 billion produced in 1987 and 1 per cent below the August forecast. In May and June, USDA forecast this year's wheat output would be up slightly.

World Business Summary

Lukman defends OPEC oil production policies

LAGOS, Sept 13, (Reuters). Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman, the OPEC chairman, has defended his adherence to the organisation's quotas in the face of critics at home who say Nigeria is sacrificing income while other members cheat. Speaking to senior military officers, he also warned that overproduction by OPEC members could drive the price of crude oil down to \$9 a barrel. The current price is \$13 and falling.

"We remain committed to OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries)," Lukman said in a speech yesterday at the elite Command and Staff College near Kaduna in the north. He said OPEC "has persistently sought to establish efficient and equitable price for crude oil and has stood ready to defend it as firmly as possible." It was his first public statement since a newspaper reported last week that he was under fire from some members of Nigeria's ruling Military Council for not allowing the country to pump more than its OPEC-set quota. His critics say he is too high-minded in refusing to allow Nigeria to go over its quota despite regular cheating by other OPEC members. Nigeria, in the middle of far-reaching economic reforms, needs every dollar it can get to settle its huge foreign debts and revive the economy, his critics say. Lukman said that over-production by some OPEC members could push prices down to \$9 a barrel, a level not seen since 1986, when the organisation saturated the world with oil.

"Unless the organisation is given all the support it needs by member states the current tide of over-production and new oil from member states can re-enact the 1986 episode," he said. "OPEC will not be able to maintain a floor price, allowing prices to plummet to \$9 again." He told the officers Nigeria's crude oil output was in line with its OPEC quota of 1.3 million barrels per day and would remain so until prices firmed significantly. He also defended oil marketing reforms which have been subject to criticism. The new formula bars sales through middle-men, most of them influential Nigerians who made money as intermediaries between foreign buyers and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation.

Rocard fires up socialists with no begging pledge

VIENNE, France, Sept 13, (Reuters). French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, facing local elections and a referendum on New Caledonia, told members of his Socialist Party today they faced a tough fight in implementing their programme. Rocard, addressing a meeting of socialist members of parliament in southeast France, said the party could expect no easy time during the session of parliament beginning next month. The socialists are 13 seats short of a majority in the national assembly, the lower house of parliament. But he pledged the would not be diverted from its goals — including the establishment of a wealth tax and a minimum income — in the interests of political gain. "We are sailing on a turbulent political ocean, but neither the waves nor the weather must be allowed to make us lose sight of our course and our goal," he said. He drew particular attention to the problems caused by what the socialist call "the new poverty" — misery caused by unemployment and the loss of purchasing power. The socialists face important local elections this month and in March, as well as a referendum in November on a plan to bring peace to France's troubled South Pacific territory of New Caledonia. Rocard played a key role in negotiations that produced an accord on New Caledonia and the referendum is considered crucial to his political standing. The Prime Minister said his government would not be deflected either by the Communist Party or by systematic opposition from right-wing politicians.

Rocard, a moderate socialist committed to building bridges with centrists, again offered an olive branch to politicians who shared his party's values. But he said the government would "not deny itself in order to beg a solution." Some left-wing socialists suspect that Rocard will water down policy in order to survive and strike a deal. Waterwords at the socialist's two-day meeting were pragmatism, patience and vigilance in face of a conservative opposition, regrouped after election defeats earlier this year. Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy told the gathering his budget proposals reflected the socialists' aims, but cautioned that "not everything can begin in 1989."

Amendment in the Kuwait Fund will raise its capital

THE Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Bader Mishari Al Humaidi said yesterday that the amendment to the Fund's law, endorsed by the Cabinet last Sunday, will raise KFAED's capital to KD1,450 million. In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, he said that the increase will come from the transfer of 50 per cent of the accumulated reserves, which are about KD917 million. Humaidi noted that the amendment will provide the fund with two means through which the capital can be increased. The first way will be through the transfer of half of the profits. Secondly, the government will allocate funds in the state's annual budget. Discussing KFAED's investment policy, the Kuwaiti official said the fund has a reserved policy and KFAED invests very little in shares. The investments do not exceed 15 per cent of the fund's total investments. The Fund was slightly affected by the crash in the international stock market last year, he added. He said the fund's investment revenues during the past years were good compared to the current circumstances in international financial markets.

Sanctions will only hurt US firms, economists say

AMERICAN companies and corporations will be the first losers if US Senate-endorsed economic sanctions are imposed against Iraq, according to local economic experts. The experts, quoted yesterday in a local daily said that an American boycott will have only limited effects on the Iraqi economy. Iraq, will find alternative markets for its exports and imports, particularly of advanced-technology such as microcomputers, aerospace and petrochemical industries, they said. The economists indicated that American services are not needed for the reconstruction of Iraq because Korean, Turkish and Kuwaiti companies are vying for the contracts. As to high-tech requirements including petrochemicals, irrigation and energy systems, Iraq could comfortably find business partners in France, West Germany and Japan. They would be happy to market their products in the oil-rich and economically promising Arab Gulf state, the analysts went on. The American decision to impose an economic boycott against Iraq for alleged use of chemical warfare against Kurdish separatist rebels in the north is advantageous to West European companies, particularly French firms. American companies would be denied a share in the war reconstruction business in Iraq due to lack of American government credit, currently ranging between \$800 million to \$1 billion.

Fair to highlight non-oil exports

JAKARTA, Sept 13, (OPECNA). Indonesia will organise an export products' exhibition here in November in a bid to step up its non-oil export drive, according to Information Minister Harsono. He said that products to be put on display would include industrial and agricultural goods and handicrafts. The one-week exhibition, opening on Nov 22, would be held at the Jakarta fair grounds, Harsono said, adding that so far more than 300 businessmen from 45 countries had indicated their intention to visit the exhibition. A cabinet meeting here, presided over by President Suharto approved the holding of the event, he said. Harsono said that the cabinet was also briefed on Indonesia's monetary situation. According to the minister, the inflation rate over the January-August period of this year amounted to 4.48 per cent.

OPEC celebrates its 28th anniversary today

THE Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) celebrates its 28th anniversary today.

A report by the research department of Kuwait News Agency said that during the past 28 years, the 13-member organisation had several problems co-ordinating and unifying oil policies and stabilising prices in the international oil market.

To protect oil prices, OPEC introduced the quota system of 1983 which set the production of member countries at 18.5 million barrels per day. But on several occasions members accused each

other of violating the production ceiling.

Big petroleum companies also launched a price war by flooding the market with their oil reserves.

Non-OPEC countries posed another challenge for OPEC. The organisation began talks with these states to stop the deterioration of oil prices. Some of these countries responded positively, while others took advantage of the quota system by increasing their production and flooding the market.

OPEC's production decreased from 34 million barrels per day in 1979 to 14.5 million BPD in 1985.

OPEC minister decided during their extraordinary conference in Geneva in January 1985, to narrow the difference between light and heavy crude prices by fixing the price at \$3.40 instead of \$3.75. They also decided to abandon linking the market price of \$29 per barrel with the Saudi light crude.

Nine countries out of 13 agreed on this new pricing structure while Algeria, Libya and Iran rejected it. Gabon refrained from voting.

To defend its share in the international oil market, OPEC decided in December 1985 to

increase its production ceiling by 2 million barrels per day, marking a production of 18 million BPD.

This decision was made to urge other producers to cut down their production and fixed prices were abandoned. During that period OPEC's production reached about 20.5 million barrels per day which at times pushed prices down to less than \$10 a barrel.

During the first quarter of 1986, oil prices started to decline when other producing countries increased their oil production. Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu

Lukman blamed Britain and other non-OPEC oil producing countries for the collapse of oil prices.

In December 1986, OPEC decided to fix prices and they reached \$18 per barrel with a production level of 15.8 million barrels per day in the first quarter. Quotas were also distributed among OPEC member countries.

The developments OPEC witnessed after its 1985 and 1986 decisions prove that the organisation is still capable of making decisions and overcoming obstacles to protect oil prices.

	DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	
DLR	-----	1.6975/85	1.8455/65	6.2810/60	OPEN
STG	1.6980/90	-----	3.1335/70	10.6620/6735	NOON
DMK	1.8422/8502	3.129/143	-----	29.31/47	FIX
FFR	6.278/290	10.664/682	339.97/0.61	-----	FX00
FFR	1.5555/5565	2.6421/6453	84.27/37	24.78/80	FX13
FFR	2.0035	3.5000	112.00	35.65	FIX
ECU	1.12192	0.661507	2.4028	7.0475	CLSE
SDR	1.30110	0.767792	2.1265	8.16440	CLSE
YEN	133.10/20	226.02/35	-----	-----	NOON
SDR RATES	12/09/1988	-----	OTHERS	13/09/1988	-----

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	299.7	306.1	306.2	259.3
AUSTRIA	223.8	224.0	223.1	215.4
BELGIUM	387.5	384.2	383.9	260.2
CANADA	352.4	353.7	356.5	350.7
DENMARK	432.4	432.2	430.3	336.6
FRANCE	367.3	364.7	365.3	288.5
GERMANY	186.7	184.7	184.2	156.6
HONG KONG	1820.7	1845.0	1851.5	1644.3
FINLAND	117.0	116.9	116.9	108.1
ITALY	408.6	409.8	408.5	377.4
JAPAN	1265.1	1259.2	1262.1	1022.3
NETHERLANDS	256.0	255.0	255.0	215.9
NEW ZEAL	95.4	95.2	97.2	98.9
NORWAY	454.7	451.7	455.6	392.4
SPORE	600.6	602.5	604.3	474.1
SPAIN	246.5	248.2	249.5	209.5
SWEDEN	931.3	923.7	920.6	856.8
SWITZ	155.3	155.3	156.2	140.7
U.K.	527.5	525.5	526.5	515.7
U.S.A.	245.5	246.1	245.4	229.4
WORLD	437.8	437.5	437.0	408.0
E.A.F.E.	815.3	815.3	814.7	757.5

DREYFUS	26/6	27/0	EXRON	44 1/8	UNCH	ECHO BAY	16 1/8	UNCH
DUKE POWER	44/2	44/4	FORD MOTOR	51 1/4	UNCH	IMPRIL OIL	41 1/8	1/8
DUN BRAD	49/4	50/0	UNITED TEL	37 3/4	+ 1/8	WANG LAB B	8 3/4	- 1/8
DUPOINT	80/3	80/5	GEN ELEC	42 1/8	- 1/8	TEXAS AIR	12 3/4	- 1/4
DUQUESNE	15/3	15/3	HAR BRA JO	12 3/8	+ 5/8	TIE	2 1/8	+ 1/8
DYNAMICS	23/1	23/1						
E SYSTEMS	28/2	28/1	NYSE LARGEST	PER CENT	CHANGE	AMEX LARGEST	PER CENT	CHANGE
EAGLE PICH	29/6	29/6	KROGER	49 1/4	+ 9 3/4	TECH	32 5/8	+ 3 5/8
EASTERN G-	23/5	23/5	TV SERVICE	20 5/8	+ 1 5/8	CENTER GRP	3 7/8	+ 3/8
EMERSON EL	29/3	29/3	VSTN UNION	2 1/8	+ 1/8	GRAM FIELD	3	+ 1/4
EMERSON RA	3/4	3/4	PORTEC	4 5/8	- 3/8	KEYSTONE	2 3/8	- 1/4
ETHYL CP	21/0	21/1	NAT SEMI	8 1/2	- 5/8	BARRISTER	2 5/8	- 1/4
EXXON	44/7	44/6	NYSE VOLUME	52,733,800		AMEX VOLUME	2,490,105	
FAM DOL ST	15/2	15/3	STOCKS UP	342		STOCKS UP	114	
FED NAT MO	48/1	48/2	STOCKS DOWN	659		STOCKS DOWN	172	
FLEISCHMT	23/0	23/1	12-SEP NASDAQ VOLUME	82,506,200				
FIN COR-AM	0	13	STOCKS UP	865	DOWN 912			
FLEETWOOD	22/2	22/1						
FNC CORP	34/6	34/6						
FORD MOTOR	51/0	51/2						
FORT ROMAR	52/0	52/0						
FOXBORO CO	27/6	27/6						
FRCHILD TMD	0	10/6						

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Stock markets quiet

Gold and oil steady, dollar idles

LONDON, Sept 13, (Reuters): The gold price steadied today after a sharp drop, tracking crude oil which also rebounded from a fall.

Stock and currency markets were quiet ahead of US July trade figures due tomorrow. A bigger-than-expected deficit could hit the dollar. Any appreciable cut in the trade gap might give America's currency a lift.

Rebounced
Bullion is a favoured hedge against inflation. Today inflationary signals were more uncertain — oil had rebounded but grain prices, which speculators have pushed up this summer as drought in North America pinched crop yields, fell.

Meanwhile in other markets, the dollar at first eased and then recovered slightly while most European shares were firmer after small gains in Asia earlier in the day and on Wall Street on Monday.

In London, gold was fixed this morning at \$420.80 an ounce. It had closed on Monday at \$419.75 after plunging about \$10 to a 17-month low of 416.60 in mid-session.

Prices
Gold prices have been closely tracking the oil market in recent days. Oil began sharply higher today on signs that the price committee of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC) might meet to discuss the prevailing glut.

London oil traders, however, remained skeptical about OPEC's ability to control supply. "What we need are concrete plans to cut production, not just hot air," said one.

Typical North Sea Brent crude for November delivery traded in Europe this morning at \$13.75 a barrel, 75 cents above Monday's business for the same position.

Grain prices showed a downward trend in Europe after a US Department of Agriculture crop report on Monday, which showed estimates of crops to be much larger than expected after this summer's drought.

The report projected a 1988 US corn crop of 4.46 billion bushels, only a tiny drop on last month's estimate of 4.48 billion. It was still, however, down sharply from the 7.06 billion bushel 1987 crop.

Easier
On a quiet European currency market, the dollar started slightly easier in low volume ahead of US July trade statistics due tomorrow.

"There is no great reward in taking any major trading position before the trade figures," said Trev Trivedi, corporate desk manager at Daiwa Europe Bank in London.

The dollar opened at 1.8430 West German marks in London compared with Monday's closing

1.8455 and at 132.95 Japanese yen versus Monday's final 133.50. By midday it was trading in Europe around 1.8465 marks and 133.20 yen.

European share values generally rose. In Tokyo, where the Nikkei Average firmed 37.42 points to 27,794.16, Masaharu Sakudo, managing director of Tachibana Securities Co Ltd said: "Volume began to warm up, but investors want to wait and see what the US trade figures will be tomorrow."

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index put on 4.65 points to 2,473.59 while Australian shares surged on bargain hunting with the All-Ordinaries index rising 13.3 to 1,530.5.

Active
In London equity prices were mostly firmer but somewhat below the day's highs with the renewed speculative activity inspired by British Gas' dawn raid on Lasso overcoming a hesitant start on Wall Street.

Lasso shares soared this morning after reports from dealers that Hoare Govett was bidding 450p per share for 15 per cent of Lasso. They then rose further, to stand 151p higher at 541, when British Gas confirmed rumours that it was the buyer and said it intended to acquire a major stake in the company.

At 1500 GMT the FTSE 100 was 12.6 points up at 1,757.1, back from a high of 1761.9, on a

turnover of 329.9 million shares. Lasso was by far the most active stock today, with 22.5 million shares traded by 1512 GMT, representing around 13 per cent of the company's share capital.

News this afternoon that British Gas had only managed to pick up 1.14 per cent of Lasso's shares this morning before the price soared led to speculation that it would have to either mount a full bid or retire for the moment.

Some market sources thought such a bid could come as early as tomorrow morning, at around 600p per Lasso share. However, a full bid would need the support of RTZ, itself up 14p to 429, which owns a near 30 per cent stake in the oil company.

Decline
RTZ chairman Sir Alistair Frame told Reuters earlier that while RTZ might sell its Lasso holding, it was not doing so at present. Though RTZ needs Lasso's approval to sell the stake, Lasso said it has already held talks with several companies, including British Gas, about the purchase of the holding.

Lasso's 25 per cent owned Associate Enterprise Ltd also leapt 127p to 563 on turnover of 11.7 million shares by 1550 GMT. ICI, which also holds a 25 per cent stake in Enterprise, was 12p up at 1,018.

Lasso's half-year results, which were due today, will now be announced tomorrow.

British Aerospace stood out with a decline of 19p to 462, despite announcing half-year pretax profits in the middle of expectations at £95 million, up from 71 million. Dealers said several factors were weighing on the share price.

Among these was the feeling that BAE was seemingly unable to explain the continuing losses in its civil aviation division. And a rise in interest payable to £26 million from three million may indicate higher levels of debt than previously thought.

Reaction
Beecham, 3p off at 459, continued to suffer from negative reaction to yesterday's announcement that it was halting clinical trials on its new cardiovascular drug cromakalim.

Consolidated Goldfields shares ended 6p higher after it reported pre-tax profit for the year to June 30 rose to £302.4 million from 244.4 million, towards the top end of expectations.

Companies reporting first-half results tomorrow include United Biscuits, 3p up at 259, Woolworths also 3p higher at 259, Prudential and P&O both 1p up at 536 and 157 respectively.

At the close the FTSE 100 share index was 11.7 points higher at 1,756.3 on a turnover of 369.2 million shares.

Indonesia drawn further into Japan's economic orbit

JAKARTA, Sept 13, (Reuters): When a major Japanese corporation recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary here, it decided to hold a low-key affair.

"We're always aware of the possibility of anti-Japanese sentiment," said its manager, who asked to remain anonymous.

Japanese businessmen keep a low profile because they still remember the anti-Japanese riot that broke out here in 1974.

Like many other Asian nations, Indonesia is being inexorably drawn into Japan's economic orbit, but it is not entirely happy about it, bankers said.

"In this region, effectively speaking we will all be tied up with Japan," said Prismo Paryawirodjo, president director of Indonesia's bank Perkembangan.

Surpluses
Jakarta has been pulled toward Tokyo by the strength of the yen and by the durability of Japan's trade surpluses, although those powerful forces have had a different impact here than in some other Asian nations.

While the yen's steep climb of the past three years has stimulated Japanese investment in many Asian nations, it has been mostly bad news for Indonesia, bankers said.

But it has still managed to draw the two nations closer together, they said. It has helped turn Indonesia into Asia's biggest debtor nation and thus pushed it towards the world's biggest creditor, Japan.

Rise
The yen's rise has had such a big impact because some 45 per cent of Indonesia's \$50 billion in foreign debt is denominated in the Japanese currency.

"We are more tied up with the Japanese," Prismo said. "But

there is no alternative."

Japan plans to extend Indonesia \$2.3 billion in loans in 1988/89, nearly double the previous year. Some \$1.4 billion will carry a low 2.7 per cent interest rate.

The aid will account for almost 30 per cent of Jakarta's external financing needs in the year ending next March.

"We should look for other countries if possible, but there are not too many who can afford it," National Planning Minister Saleh Affif told Reuters in a recent interview.

Indonesia is the top borrower from the Japanese government. "The terms are very good," Affif explained.

The terms are very good because Japan's huge trade surplus means the country has more money than it knows what to do with. And Indonesia, like other Asian nations, is benefitting.

Ties
Affif said he saw no big dangers from the closer ties with Japan and likened the bilateral relationship to that between the United States and Mexico.

He also said that before this year, the World Bank was the biggest lender to Indonesia, not Japan. It is only because the yen's rapid rise has pushed up the dollar value of Indonesia's external debts that Jakarta has turned to Tokyo for help.

"We are not doing it every year," he said. "But since we have this special problem of the appreciation of the yen... we need this special assistance to carry the burden."

But in a comment that is frequently voiced throughout Asia, Affif said that Japan was not that easy to deal with.

His attitude was perhaps best summed up by his remark that Japan's economic, trade, finance

and foreign ministers are collectively known here as the "four samurai."

A Japanese diplomat admitted that many Indonesians are suspicious of Tokyo's motives in giving big loans to Jakarta.

"I'm always being asked what is the real reason behind it," said Osmu Shiozaki, first secretary at the embassy here.

The answer? "This is the only effective way we can contribute to the stability of this area," Indonesia controls the straits of Malacca, which links Japan and the Middle East.

Suspicious
Like their counterparts in other Asian nations, many Indonesians are probably suspicious because they remember Japan's occupation of their country during World War II. But their attitude may be somewhat more ambivalent than elsewhere, bankers said. No major land battle was fought in Indonesia and Japan gave some impetus to Jakarta's bid for independence from the Dutch before it withdrew from here.

The ties between Jakarta and Tokyo have long been deep. Indonesia has provided the raw materials used by Japan's powerful industrial machine to conquer world markets.

Indonesia's exports to Japan accounted for nearly 17-1/2 billion of its total exports of \$71.1 billion in 1987.

So far, Jakarta has not benefited as much as other Asian nations from the flood of Japanese foreign investment triggered by the strong yen, but bankers saw signs that that may be changing.

In the long run, the country's 175 million people could make it an attractive market for Japanese products.

Arlabank announces joint-venture in Brazil

BAHRAIN, Sept 13, (Reuters): Arlabank International, Bahrain's third biggest offshore bank, said today it had entered a joint-venture partnership to set up an investment bank with Brazil's Hermes Macdo Group.

The new bank — Banco HM De Investimentos S.A. — has been capitalised at \$13 million at its head office in Curitiba and will operate a main branch in Sao Paulo, Arlabank said in a statement.

It said the new bank's activities would include corporate finance and advisory services, the domestic money market and investment transactions, export financing and foreign exchange.

The statement said the new bank would begin operating soon but gave no date.

Profits
Arlabank reported net profits of \$7.3 million for the first half of 1988, a 67 per cent increase over the first half of 1987.

The consortium bank, which has been burdened by heavy exposure to Latin America, announced a \$132.6 million net loss for 1987 after making extraordinary provisions against Third World debt.

An issue which would have doubled capital to \$225 million was undersubscribed, boosting paid-in share capital by \$71.2 million to 183.7 million.

Treasury bills oversubscribed

THE Central Bank of Kuwait said yesterday its 23rd Treasury bill issue had been oversubscribed by 260 per cent.

Thirty-four orders were placed for the KD 100 million bills. Sixteen orders placed by ten different parties were met, the bank said.

Rural India discovers a way around bankers and moneylenders

BANGALURU, India, Sept 13, (Reuters): Loan sharks and sour-faced bank managers may become sights of the past in rural southern India, where peasants are setting up their own self-financed credit groups.

The groups, known as sanghas in the local dialect, began by offering peasants who live on the knife-edge of poverty a way of escaping from traditional debt traps. Now they have become a catalyst for revamping entire communities.

Founded by peasants who had trouble getting small, short-term loans, the groups are being encouraged throughout the region by workers at Myrada, a development body that began in 1968 as the Mysore resettlement and development agency.

Landowners, moneylenders and local politicians used to control village life at every level, dominating even co-operatives organised for the peasants, Myrada workers say.

Project
"The little people said 'these big farmers will not help us. Let us see what we can do for ourselves,'" said Manohara Pillai, head of a Myrada project which has its headquarters in Bangarpet Taluk village in the southern state of Karnataka.

And so the sangha was born. Members each contribute a

Growing indebtedness worries economists

US account deficit narrows sharply

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (Reuters): The US current account deficit, the broadest measure of the nation's trade, narrowed to \$33.3 billion between April and June from \$236.9 billion in the first quarter, the Commerce Department said today.

The report showed improvement in the merchandise trade deficit as a result of a lower dollar but also reflected the United States' growing indebtedness to foreigners which has worried economists and members of Congress.

The current account covers trade in goods and services and the balance in investment income with other nations.

For the first half of this year,

the deficit is \$70.3 billion. For all of 1987 it was \$154 billion.

Although the merchandise trade deficit has been falling in recent months, total US foreign debt is steadily rising as the need for foreign capital to fund the federal budget deficit remains strong and foreigners continue to be attracted to invest in US firms, real estate, and other investments.

Burden
The United States owed foreigners \$368 billion at the end of 1987, Senator Paul Sarbanes, chairman of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, has said the US foreign debt could easily exceed \$500 billion by the end of this year.

Sarbanes, who has called congressional hearings to examine the issue, said the growing burden of this debt could affect how Americans live and work.

"We cannot afford to ignore the trends which have transformed the United States from the world's major creditor nation into its largest debtor," Sarbanes said in a statement.

The improvement in the gap between the second and first quarter reflected a drop in the merchandise trade deficit to \$29.9 billion from 35.2 billion in the first period.

A boom in exports spurred by the drop in the dollar is credited with the improvement in the merchandise trade deficit. But the net services balance, including investment earnings, showed a

\$492-million deficit in the last quarter after a revised first-quarter surplus of 1.4 billion.

The department previously reported a first quarter net services deficit of \$655 million. Unless the second quarter net services deficit is revised to a surplus, it would be the United States' first gap in services in 30 years.

The drop in services included a decrease in income on US direct investment abroad and a shift to capital losses for foreign affiliates of US companies.

Although the trend of the dollar has been downward, it has risen in recent weeks with a jump in US interest rates. This has cut profits of US firms' foreign subsidiaries, the department said.

Cocoa talks hold cold comforts for weak market

LONDON, Sept 13, (Reuters): Cocoa producer and consumer nations made little progress towards an agreement to prop up sagging cocoa prices by the half-way stage in bi-annual talks here, commodity analysts said today.

Traders on the London cocoa market were also pessimistic about prospects for a price-boosting agreement at the two-week meeting of the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) council.

Cocoa prices fell again, to hit 12-1/2-year lows today.

"Things couldn't be worse... the agreement is toothless and has lost credibility as a market force," a commodity analyst said.

Hopes
The ICCO meeting, which started on Monday, hopes to find a way of maintaining the group's paralysed international price support agreement.

But the agreement, one of the few commodity stabilisation

pacts still operating, seems to be in trouble.

"We see it (the group's cocoa pact) dying its own death," the Agriculture Minister of the world's largest cocoa producer, Denis Bra Kanon of the Ivory Coast, told reporters last week during a meeting of producers in Lome.

The ICCO is faced with a daunting agenda. The pact cannot play its price regulation role because its 250,000-tonne buffer stock has been full since late February.

Scheme
Rules exist for a withholding scheme which could hold another 120,000 tonnes off the market to boost prices. But its introduction is being blocked by a dispute between producers and consumers over what prices the pact should try to defend.

On Friday, the cocoa market was swept by rumours — unconfirmed by senior traders — which

suggested the Ivory Coast has ended the virtual embargo on sales it had launched in protest against falling prices.

The Ivory Coast does not usually comment on such rumours. But along with doubts about progress at the ICCO talks, the rumours helped knock cocoa futures prices in London down by £18 (\$31) a tonne from last week's lows to £771 (\$1,308) for March delivery.

Prices
Some market analysts say prices would be some £200 (\$340) below current levels if it were not for the Ivory Coast's restricted sales policy and a slight improvement in consumption because of the weak prices for the commodity.

"Cocoa's role as a vital foreign exchange earner for many Third World countries has forced them to take emergency action. The Ghana News Agency (GNA) this week said nations accounting for

80 per cent of world output plan a summit meeting on how to boost prices which might convene next month.

The ICCO this week said a four-year-old worldwide glut could continue for another three years. Experts doubt whether the world body can do anything to bolster prices.

Surplus
London traders Gill and Duffus forecast a 133,000-tonne world surplus in the current harvest year.

Some analysts expect a record surplus of more than 200,000 tonnes next year, with world stocks nearing one million tonnes or half a year's supply, due to buoyant West African and Indonesian crops.

Few were prepared to guess where the market would end up if the cocoa pact collapsed completely against this background.

"There is no bottom price for any market," one analyst said.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Sept 13, (Reuters): The share market closed stronger as domestic buying boosted some recently oversold stocks. At the close of trading, the All-Ordinaries index had risen 13.3 points to 1,530.5.

TOKYO: Prices closed slightly higher after a fluctuating session that saw an initial spurt give way to some profit-taking. The Nikkei index rose 37.42 or 0.13 per cent, to 27,794.16.

HONG KONG: Prices closed marginally higher in lacklustre trade, while turnover declined further from Monday's two-year low. The Hang Seng index ended 4.65 up at 2,473.59.

SINGAPORE: Shares eased further on a continued lack of interest in sluggish trading. Prices fell from the opening bell on profit-taking and stop-loss selling. The Straits Time industrial index shed 2.54 points to 1,062.91.

BOMBAY: Shares resumed their buoyant trend after three consecutive holidays as heavy institutional and investor support showed no signs of waning.

FRANKFURT: Shares closed narrowly mixed as the market took a breather after Monday's surge and some operators took profits at these high levels. The 30-share Dax index closed down 1.17 points at 1,206.72.

PARIS: Prices ended the continuous session higher in active trading sparked by an early

flurry of buying on LVHM ahead of its key shareholders' meeting next week. The 50-share price indicator ended 1.39 pct up.

ZURICH: Prices closed little changed with a positive undertone in moderate trading. The Swiss Swiss index firmed 2.1 to 879.8 points.

LONDON: Prices were mostly firmer but somewhat below the day's highs with renewed speculation inspired by British Gas' dawn raid on Lasso.

NEW YORK: Stocks were at lower levels with activity quiet prior to the US merchandise trade deficit report early on Wednesday. The Dow was down four at 2,069.

Saudi delegation to visit China

RIYADH, Sept 13, (Reuters): A delegation of Saudi businessmen will visit China on Sept 20 to seek increased two-way trade, industry sources said today.

The chairman of the National Industrialisation Company (NIC), Dr Mahdoun Jalal, will head the delegation.

Although the two countries have no diplomatic relations, China is the kingdom's 12th largest supplier of goods, with exports last year totalling \$312.3 million.

China is a big customer for Saudi products, including fertilizers and wheat.

Debt-plagued Africa must have more aid, says UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 13, (Reuters): Africa, burdened by \$218 billion in debts and facing higher trade barriers, must have more help from abroad to avert a chronic crisis, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said yesterday.

Reviewing the economic recovery programme launched here more than two years ago, he said that while net resource flows to Africa had risen, at 1986 prices and exchange rates they were still below the levels of the early 1980s.

Key African commodities met progressively stiffer non-tariff barriers in industrialised countries and imports vitally needed for existing productive capacity and for new investment fell by eight per cent last year, he said.

Circumstances
"These circumstances are likely to lead not to recovery and development but to drift and stagnation, if not to a chronic state of crisis," Perez de Cuellar told delegates to the African economic recovery committee.

Painful reforms undertaken by most African countries required great public sacrifice that people might be able to bear if there were signs of progress, he said.

"But per capita income fell by over two per cent last year and all the available evidence indicates widespread and severe personal hardship throughout Africa," Perez de Cuellar said. There should be no illusions as to how long governments can sustain stringent reforms in such conditions. They must have more help.

As of last February, Africa's total external debt was \$218 billion, or 70 per cent of the continent's entire gross domestic product. Last year, the interest payments on this debt were equivalent to some six per cent of the gross domestic product. This transfer of resources out of the continent has virtually placed a halt on growth.

Reforms
The debt problem was not only short-term, Perez de Cuellar said. Debt service obligations last year were estimated at \$29 billion and still larger payments were due to begin within months. The debt servicing burden was projected to reach \$45 billion a year by 1995 unless far more durable and comprehensive solutions were reached.

In contrast, indicators of what Africa earned in financial aid and could earn in trade in the current export environment remained stagnant or negative, he said.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Initial guarantee: 2-1/2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12:00 noon, Sunday, 16.10.88
Qualified tenders:
1. Al Abheh Circle Cleaning Co.
2. United Shipping, Trdg. & Contg. Services
3. Tanziro Est.
4. National Cleaning Co.
5. Abdul Hameed Salem Trdg. Est.
6. Ibrahim Al Samahan Trdg. & Cleaning Contg. Est.
7. Dast & Berkeley Cleaning Works Co.
8. Kuwait Pritchard Cleaning Co.
9. Al Abraq Trdg. Co.
10. Kuwait National Real Estate Management Co.
11. Al Mulla Environment Maintenance Co.
12. Al Soor Cleaning Co.
13. Al Jahra Cleaning Equipment Co.
14. Al Sanea Cleaning Services Co.
15. Abdul Trdg. & Contg. Est.
16. Wael Al Nusiif & Partners Trdg. Co.
17. Blue Sea Trdg. Co.
18. Kuwait Gulf Link Transport Co.
19. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Arfaj Trdg. Est.
20. Fahed Al Kuleeb Trdg. & Contg. Est.
21. Al Baddah & Messeri Trdg. & Contg. Co.
22. Abdul Rahman Dawood Al Qimias
23. Jasssem Transport Co.
N.B.: A pre-tender meeting shall be held at 9.00 am on 25.9.88 in Al Hamdi Community Centre to discuss the tender conditions and visit the site.

Tender No. MEW/22/4/34/88/89
Tender's Internal No. 121/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Elec. & Water
Requirements: Supply of 10 integrated distribution stations (11 K.V. Switch Gear-Vacuum)
Relevant Fee: KD. 50/-
Initial Guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 Noon, Sunday, 30.10.88
Qualified Tenders:
1. Al Jazera & Al Qusaini Transport Co.
2. Hmoud Al Khada Gen. Trdg. & Contg. & Bros. Co.
3. Mustafa Karam Trdg. & Contg. Est.
4. Hamed Al Khaled & Bros. Co.
Tender No. HMA/18/87/29
Tender's Internal No. 126/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Public Works
Requirements: Construction, completion & maintenance of Mosque Model (9A), Modified in Jabriya

In addition, Africa faces the impact of natural calamities ranging from drought or floods to plagues of locusts and the human cost of economic disruption of civil strife and external stabilisation.

The secretary general said there was impressive testimony to the serious efforts made in the past 27 months, but he expressed deep concern about convergent factors that had not yet been adequately addressed.

Debt
The debt problem was not only short-term, Perez de Cuellar said. Debt service obligations last year were estimated at \$29 billion and still larger payments were due to begin within months. The debt servicing burden was projected to reach \$45 billion a year by 1995 unless far more durable and comprehensive solutions were reached.

In contrast, indicators of what Africa earned in financial aid and could earn in trade in the current export environment remained stagnant or negative, he said.

Tender No. KH/AT/1/87
Tender's Internal No. 192/88
Concerned Party: Kuwait National Petroleum Co.
Requirements: Rent of vehicles for transporting company goods.
Relevant Fee: KD. 20/-
Initial Guarantee: 2 1/2% of offer's value
Closing Date: 12:00 Noon, Sunday, 30.10.88
Qualified Tenders:
1. Al Jazera & Al Qusaini Transport Co.
2. Hmoud Al Khada Gen. Trdg. & Contg. & Bros. Co.
3. Mustafa Karam Trdg. & Contg. Est.
4. Hamed Al Khaled & Bros. Co.
Tender No. HMA/18/87/29
Tender's Internal No. 126/88
Concerned Party: Ministry of Public Works
Requirements: Construction, completion & maintenance of Mosque Model (9A), Modified in Jabriya

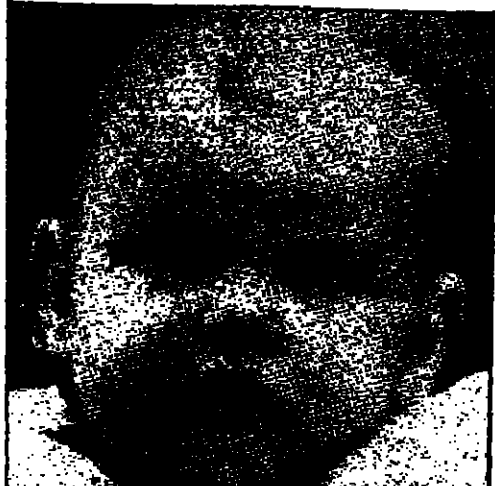
1. Asca Libr Co., Germany/Kuwait
2. South Wells Transformers Co., England/Sayed Hameed Behbehani & Sons Co.
3. Babcock Ltd. Co., England/Al Marfa Trdg. Co.
4. N.T. Transformer Co., England/Dakheel Al Jasser
5. Hitachi Co., Japan/Yousuf Ahmed Al Ghanim & Sons
6. Mitsubishi Co., Japan/Salem Moud Al Nusiif Electrical Company
7. Copex Co., France/Abdul Aziz Abdul Mohsen Al Rasheed
8. Elita Co., Austria/Marzoob Khaled Al Ghum

ADOPTION/SURROGACY

Baby M:
the debate goes on



Adoptive mother: Elizabeth Stern



Baby M: the child at the centre of the controversy



Surrogate mother: Mary Beth Whitehead

By Curtis J. Sitomer

BOSTON: When Phyllis Chesler talks about surrogacy, she has fire in her eyes and passion in her voice.

To this university professor, psychotherapist, and ardent feminist, the practice of one woman bearing a child for another in return for pay is "debased, degrading," and reminiscent of "an early form of slavery."

Dr. Chesler, who lectures widely on women's issues, is author of a new book, "Sacred Bond: The Legacy of Baby M" (Times Books). In this volume, she looks at the rights of women, and biological mothers in particular, in the light of the experience of Mary Beth Whitehead. Mrs. Whitehead bore a child for William and Elizabeth Stern under a \$10,000 surrogacy contract that she later reneged on in an effort to keep the infant.

Chesler was a consultant and close friend to Whitehead (now Gould) during the latter's bitter three-year legal ordeal to retain custody. Mr. Stern was the biological father.

"Mary Beth Whitehead's only crime is that she wanted to keep her child," Chesler said in a recent interview here.

"The other side to the right to abortion," she explained, "is the right to keep one's child — the right to change one's mind."

Chesler says moral issues are implicit in surrogacy. "What does it tell us if women can be bought like goods?" she asks. She adds that society has a special responsibility towards children. "Children are not private property. They are not owned."

Phyllis Chesler is part of an unlikely coalition of those who would outlaw the practice of surrogacy for reasons ranging from women's rights to religious considerations to traditional family values.

Since the celebrated Baby M case, the issue has been widely debated in the courts, state legislatures, and public forums across the United States.

Results have varied:

- A trial judge validated the Whitehead-Stern contract in 1987, awarding the baby to William Stern, allowing his wife, Elizabeth, to legally adopt her, and terminated Whitehead's visitation rights. The New Jersey Supreme Court, however, overturned the surrogacy agreement and the adoption proceeding, and reinstated Whitehead's legal relationship with the child. Baby M remains in the custody of the Sterns.

- At least half the states have entertained legislative proposals regulating or banning surrogacy.

For example, a Michigan law which outlaws pregnancy-for-pay, goes into effect on Sept. 1. This statute holds that those who make money making babies may be fined or put behind bars. Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Nebraska have enacted laws prohibiting enforcement of surrogacy contracts. A similar measure is pending in California. Nevada has said surrogacy contracts are enforceable, but subject to judicial review.

Several states have appointed study commissions to look at the matter.

New York's Task Force on Life and the Law, for instance, issued a report in late June,

saying that paying women to bear children for others "has the potential to undermine the dignity of women, children, and human reproduction."

This panel recommended that surrogacy contracts should be declared void and payments to surrogates and brokers should be banned.

- The American Bar Association, which takes a neutral position on surrogacy, is drawing up guidelines under which a surrogacy contract would be valid.

ABA's JoEllen Bursinger says that a model surrogacy act, just drafted by the law group's family law section, will come before the organization's house of delegates during its annual meeting in Toronto this week. These regulations must be adopted by each state to become law.

- Public interest groups on both sides of the issue are stepping up lobbying efforts to gain public support for their views.

Jeremy Rifkin — a long-time activist against genetic engineering — heads up the National Coalition Against Surrogacy. Mr. Rifkin's group now is producing attorney's general in states where surrogacy brokers operate to declare these activities unlawful.

Outlaw

At the same time, pro-surrogacy groups, including the California-based Centre for Surrogate Parenting, are seeking media exposure to get their message across that the practice benefits society. It provides childless couples with infants with biological link to themselves and earns expenses for women who selflessly are willing to bear babies for those who

are unable to have their own, the Centre says.

Among proposals to restrict, but not outlaw, surrogacy are those which would license family clinics that engage in this practice, mandate medical and psychological tests for those who are about to enter contracts, and limit the number of times a woman may engage in an pregnancy-for-pay arrangement.

The financial aspect of surrogacy is perhaps the most debated issue of the controversy.

Typical contracts provide for a fee of \$10,000 to a lawyer or broker to match an infertile couple with a woman willing to be artificially inseminated with the husband's sperm. Another \$10,000 is paid to the woman for her pregnancy. And \$5,000 to \$10,000 in additional expenses is usually involved.

Those who favour surrogacy insist that it will continue regardless of state laws limiting or banning it.

Phyllis Chesler sees surrogacy as indicative of broader social problems facing society, including parental rights, human bonding, and economic inequality between men and women and those contracting to "buy" a baby.

She writes: "Baby M is every child who has ever been physically, legally, or psychologically separated from her birth mother for her own good" in the mistaken belief that a child needs a father, a father-dominated family, and/or money, far more than she needs her birth mother, love, and freedom."

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



South Korean children: over 6,000 children are sent to the United States alone making South Korea the largest source of foreign orphans.

Big market in humanitarian commerce

By Spencer Sherman

SEOUL (UPI): They are South Korea's most precious exports — orphans in swaddling clothes sent abroad to start a new life free from the stigma of illegitimacy that brands them at home.

Tucked in blankets and strapped to airline seats, some 6,000 babies each year are sent to the United States alone, making South Korea the largest source of foreign orphans for American couples. By some estimates, 59 per cent of all foreign adoptions in the US are of Korean babies.

"It is not a record of pride for South Korea officials, who refuse to talk about foreign adoption or release statistics for fear of blemishing the nation's honour or giving a propaganda issue to its arch-rival, communist North Korea."

But the potential problem of profit-oriented adoption agencies forcing women to give up their infants prompts US officials like American embassy immigration officer Robert Ackerman, to ask, "Where does humanitarianism end and business begin?"

The market in "humanitarian commerce," as one social worker wryly called it, is spurred by the laws of supply and demand.

US couples want South Korean babies. Korea lacks a well-developed social welfare network for unwed mothers and their estimated 14,000

Due to the lack of a well-developed social welfare system for unwed mothers and a cultural bias against local adoptions, thousands of illegitimate babies are sent abroad for adoption by profit-oriented agencies in South Korea.

illegitimate offspring born each year.

Domestic adoption is rare for cultural and historical reasons.

"Adopting unbalances the family tree," said one social worker.

Koreans guard their family heritage closely. Most families own a thick book tracing their lineage back thousands of years. Almost all South Koreans keep lists of given names handed down generation to generation to be given to male children.

Conservative Korea is also a socially conservative society, and single women with children born out of wedlock are pushed to the fringes of labour at menial jobs or prostitution.

To cope with the problem, the South Korean government licenses four agencies to arrange overseas adoptions. Women who indicate they want to give up a child receive medical expenses from the agencies and are cared for at a home for unwed mothers until they deliver.

Most of the children are sent

to the United States. Social workers locate an American couple and, for about \$4,000, a contract is arranged. After the baby is born, the agencies contract with people flying back to the United States to take an infant along.

Mormon Church legal council Richard Rife levels the most common complaint against the agencies.

"They lack the milk of human kindness," and care more about business than babies," he said.

But US officials who monitor the agencies say their worst fear, baby selling, is not a serious problem — yet.

"It is obvious, in our experience, that baby selling is a possibility that is readily available at any time," says Ackerman of the US embassy.

"When I see 500 kids going out of the country a month, I have to ask 'do we have a humanitarian effort or just a baby pipeline?'"

But Ackerman says he has "reservations about condemning the system, because maybe it is a humanitarian issue."

There are a small but grow-

ing number of social workers who believe South Korea must now take care of its own orphans.

"After the (Korean) war, okay, we were poor," said one who insisted on anonymity. "But now we are a rich country. We should stop this."

Pressure

There is some pressure inside the government to find different solution for orphans because of potential embarrassment. North Korea has in the past used the issue of foreign adoptions to criticize the South as a nation unable to take care of its citizens.

So no Health Ministry official or agency representative will talk about adoptions.

"It is too sensitive an issue," said the public information director of the Holt agency, the nation's largest adoption agency.

Ackerman believes the rate of foreign adoptions will slow as South Korea continues to grow economically.

"Women will be more willing and able to keep their children," he says.

But some officials fear that agencies will pressure women into giving up their babies even if the mothers are ambivalent, because the agencies only make money when they sent the babies abroad.

"At that point," Ackerman said, "there would be more pressure to keep the adoption system working."



At New York's Lincoln Hospital, 20 boarder babies await placement. Says a volunteer: "Most of their mothers never even visit."

FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

PHOTOSENSITIVE REACTIONS
RELATED TO DRUGS, DISEASES

QUESTION: I used to love to go to the beach when I was younger, but the past few times I've gone, I have had disastrous rashes. I'm only 58 years old. I'd hate to think that I am too old to tolerate a little sun.

ANSWER: At 58 you could hardly be called geriatric, but as you get older there are a variety of reasons why you might be more prone to an allergic reaction to the sun.

In the older person, most photosensitive reactions are related either to medications or to underlying diseases, such as lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis or even cancer.

Anyone who spends too much time in the sun, no matter how dark or "conditioned" they are to it, will get a sunburn. Problems, such as yours, occur when an individual develops a response to lower levels of radiant energy than normal. Many medications commonly given to older patients react in the system when the body is exposed to direct sunlight. Some drugs that commonly cause photosensitive dermatitis include chlorpromazine, griseofulvin, nalidixic acid, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs,

PABA, phenothiazines, sulfonylureas, tetracyclines, thiazides and others. (A careful review of all your medications with your physician will discover if any of your medications fall into these classifications.) Externally applied medications also can produce reactions. If your rashes occurred only where topical medication was applied, then this is your problem.

It is important to note that PABA compounds frequently are the culprits, as they are common in many sunscreens.

If you can't link your problem to a medication that you are taking, then it's extremely important to see a doctor, as the reaction could be a clue to an underlying disease.

Remember, it's wise for all people to limit their time in the sun and to protect exposed skin with sunscreens at all times.

QUESTION: This is a very difficult question to ask and I am too embarrassed to ask anyone else. Could you please tell me if you know of a condition that causes a man to have extreme pain when he gets an erection?

ANSWER: There is no cause for

embarrassment as, regrettably, there is a condition known as Peyronie's Disease that can do exactly what you are describing. This problem is seen in adults, and science does not provide us a full explanation of its cause.

Inside the penis are two bundles of tissue that, when filled with blood, produce an erection. In Peyronie's disease, these bundles develop scar tissue. This scarring leads to the curving of the erect penis toward the side of the scar, which can be quite painful. This scarring can progress and actually lead to an inability to have an erection.

Surgery can be performed in an attempt to correct the condition, but scarring from the surgery can occur and aggravate the condition. X-ray therapy has been used with some success as have injections of cortisone. Here again, the results are often not all one could wish for. It is this kind of situation that makes personal medical care so important, and you may gain a much better understanding and some real help if you consult your personal family doctor.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

One woman tells her story

Foreign adoption can sometimes backfire

By Spencer Sherman

SEOUL (UPI): In desperation, Lim Soo Ja gave away her children six years ago. Now she desperately wants them back.

In 1982, the abandoned wife and mother says she turned to the elders of the Mormon church in Seoul to find temporary care for her two children. South Korea has no public welfare system to help poor single women with children.

But her action began what to Soo Ja was a six-year nightmare that may never end. Instead of finding a temporary solution, the church steered Soo Ja to an adoption agency specialising in US placements.

Her 10-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son became two of more than 6,000 children a year permanently adopted in the United States.

South Korea is the biggest source of foreign orphans for adoptive US couples.

Soo Ja insists now that she agreed only to temporary care

in the United States. The church says she abandoned her children for good.

Now married to an American college professor in Seoul, Soo Ja Burnham decided to sue the system and get her children back.

Her circumstances are unusual, but the pressures that produced her dilemma are similar for each South Korean mother who must decide to keep or give up her child.

Widowed or divorced women often give up their children for adoption, social workers say, because chances of remarriage are poorer with children.

So it was natural, Soo Ja said, that she put her family's fate into the hands of the only man who would help them: her Mormon social worker Park Jeh-Am.

"At the time, I didn't know what adoption was," she says with a sad smile. "I thought it was impossible to give away your children."

But the church arranged through an adoption agency for

a Mormon couple from Sandy, Utah to adopt her daughter, Lim Hyeon Joo, and son, Lim Hee Joon.

In 1987, after her marriage to Larry Burnham, Soo Ja decided she could care for her children again. She says she then saw for the first time the official paper that gave "irrevocable consent" for the adoption.

At the bottom was her "Tojiang" — a personal seal, more official than a signature, used by South Koreans for stamping official documents. Soo Ja insists she never stamped the paper, claiming social worker Park used her seal to stamp it.

Richard Rife, legal council for the Mormon church in Korea, says Park took Soo Ja to an adoption agency and explained she was "giving up her rights forever." But Rife admits he is unsure whose story is accurate.

"I wish I knew what the truth was," he said.

Larry and Soo Ja Burnham contacted Roy and Jean Reyn-

olds in Sandy, Utah and explained the problem, saying they wanted the children back.

According to letters, the Reynolds first rejected the idea. "My wife was given to know that we would receive these particular children — and that they were to be part of our eternal family — nine months before they actually arrived in America," Roy Reynolds wrote.

Soo Ja is a committed Mormon who hesitated to oppose a member of her church. But the Burnhams continued to press their case.

Finally the Reynolds asked the children.

The boy, now a 12-year-old named John, decided to go back to his mother. But 16-year-old Rose decided to stay in Utah.

For Soo Ja, the struggle is not over. The Reynolds will not allow her to nullify the adoption, so her boy will only be a visitor in Korea, still officially the Reynolds' son. Soo Ja hopes her daughter will decide to return to her mother's home when she turns 18.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



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KUWAIT City, behind the Sharq Tower. Sharing accommodation in a CAC flat for a Mangalorean or Goan bachelor. Tele. Quadros, 4845104, 7 am - 12:30 pm, 4-7 pm.

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KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind Al Firdous Cinema beside the Nooriya Saloon, House No. 117. Accommodation for a family. Tele. Mr. Ezzat, 2445213, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

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KUWAIT City, above Hardees. One room for one or two persons. Tele. Mr. Jackson, 4811632, 8 am - 5 pm.

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Miscellaneous

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SHAAB area, 2 bedroom spacious flat for sale with AC units, carpets and other household items. Available from 1st October. Rent KD150. Tele. 2658174, after 3:30 pm.

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SOFA, 4 armchairs, tables, chairs, audio unit, beds, bookcase, desks, open wall unit, computer, Hi Fi and camera. Tele. 3710214/15 ext. 5202, after 5 pm.

(AT3-43853-3)

CLEARANCE sale, Sunday 18th September. Various small household items, also TV, video and ladies clothes, English size 10. Tele. 5711209 evenings only.

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APPLE IIC with monitor, external disc drive and telephone modem. Beach Buggy, red, in very good condition. Tele. 4847671, 4845058, 4843803.

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PASSPORT No. E000723 in the name of Francisco Inacio Fernandes, Indian. Finder please telephone 4843988 ext. 2916 or inform the Indian Embassy.

(AT3-43885-3)

PASSPORT No. E 189570 in the name of Abdul Hamid Mohammad Yusuf. Finder please tele. 2419032, 4833114.

(AT5-43918-3)

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(AT5-43922-2)

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ELECTRICAL engineer. A young Indian, with a Bachelor of Engineering, seeks suitable position. Please write to Mr. Jacob George, B.E. P.O. Box 9021, 61001, Ahmadi, Kuwait.

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ELECTRICAL engineer, European, 20 years experience, 5 years in Kuwait, power control, designing, erection, commissioning, maintenance, looking for a job. Tele. 5619499, 5-9 pm.

(AT3-43891-3)

EXECUTIVE secretary, experienced in self-correspondence, typing, shorthand, telex, fax and conversant with banking, air/sea cargo clearing, tendering, and all other office works, seeks position. Tele. 5656927.

(AT5-43921-3)

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(AT4-43910-3)

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(AT4-43857-2)

REQUIRED from the Sunshine School, Salwa to the Zoo, Omariya, at 2:15 pm (one way only). Tele. Mrs. James, 4734168, Mr. James, 4730624.

(AT5-43913-3)

REQUIRED for a lady from Khansa Street, Salmiya to Shuwaikh near Al Ghanim Industries, 4 times daily. Tele. 4845261, ext. 238, 8 am - 1 pm, 4-7 pm.

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REQUIRED for a lady from Jabriya, Area No. 9 to Dawhiya, Commercial Centre, 3 times daily, 8:30 am, 1 pm and 3:45 pm. Tele. 2413532, 2413548.

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GULLIT DOUBTFUL FOR CRUCIAL WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Netherlands set to meet Wales



Gullit: could miss the game

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 13. (Reuter): The Netherlands, making their first competitive international appearance since winning the European Championship, will turn their sights on the World Cup finals in Italy in 1990 when they meet Wales here tomorrow.

But the team which swept to a memorable triumph in West Germany in June could be without their most inspirational player and captain Ruud Gullit for their first European qualifying Group Four tie.

Difficult
Gullit is still recovering from a knee injury which has kept him out of training with Italian champions AC Milan but hopes to be able to make some contribution to what could be a difficult match for the Dutch team's new coach Thjis Libregts.

"I'm feeling 60 per cent fit now," Gullit told reporters at the Dutch squad's training headquarters at the seaside town of Noordwijk. "But I don't know whether I can play the full match. That's Libregts' decision."

Netherlands' national soccer coach when Rinus Michels left following the European Championship finals for West German First Division club Bayer Leverkusen.

Libregts is not expected to unduly alter Michels' triumphant team other than by recalling defender Sonny Silooy, who was ruled out of the European finals through injury, in place of veteran midfielder Arnold Muhren who has ended his international career.

With an enthusiastic crowd ready to celebrate once again their Munich triumph, the Dutch may find complacency is their most dangerous opponent particularly as Wales will be intent on returning from the Olympic stadium with some reward.

Welsh coach Terry Yorath believes his team contains enough talented players to cause an upset but recognises the quality of the Dutch and especially striker Marco van Basten, who was the top scorer at the European Championship finals. Yorath said Wales would work hard at keeping Van Basten

out of the penalty area where he, like Wales own captain and striker Ian Rush, is most dangerous. "We will do everything to keep him out of that area," he said.

With only one team qualifying from the group which also includes West Germany and Finland, the Netherlands require a victory to stay in step with the Germans who opened their campaign with a 4-0 win in Helsinki last month.

Teams:
Netherlands (from): Hans van Breukelen, Joop Hiele, Wilbert Suvrijn, Frank Rijkaard, Adri van Tiggelen, Sonny Silooy, Ronald Koeman, Hendrie Krutzen, Jan Wouters, Erwin Koeman, Berry van Aerle, Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten, Wim Kieft, John Bosman, Gerald Vanenburg.

Wales (from): Neville Southall, Tony Norman, Gareth Hall, Peter Nicholas, Clayton Blackmore, Alan Knill, Mark Hughes, Glyn Hodges, Brian Law, Alan Davies, Barry Horne, Mark Aizlewood, David Williams, Ian Rush, Dean Saunders.

Injury-hit Scots face tough Cup qualifier

OSLO, Sept. 13. (Reuter): Scotland begin their campaign to reach the 1990 World Cup soccer finals tomorrow with injury problems against a Norwegian team notoriously difficult to beat at home.

Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh had pinned his faith on an experienced squad for the opening Group Five game — only to find that defender Richard Gough, midfielders Gordon Strachan and Neil Simpson and striker Ally McCoist were ruled out through injuries.

Appear
"All the players we've lost are important to the Scottish team," said Roxburgh. "Just look at their names."

The two nations would appear to be poorly matched. Scotland will be looking for a good start on the road to Italy in 1990, having qualified for the last four World Cup finals, while Norway last qualified in 1938.

But the Norwegian side, a mixture of amateurs and professionals, have a reputation for tenacious in the Ullevaal stadium. Also, Scotland are notoriously poor travellers.

Norway held Bulgaria and Brazil to 1-1 draws in friendlies earlier this summer and last year handed France a humiliating 2-0 defeat.

Two nations will qualify from the group which also contains France, Yugoslavia and Cyprus.

Teams (from):
Norway: Erik Thorstvedt, Goeran Soerloth, Tom Sundby, Ola By Rise, Kjetil Osvald, Karl Petter Locken, Erlend Johnsen, Jahn Ivar Jakobsen, Hans Henriksen, Gunnar Halle, Anders Gliske, Jan Aage Fjoroft, Rune Bratseth, Sverre Brandhaug, Oerjan Berg, Joern Andersen.

Scotland: Jim Leighton, Andrew Goram, Steve Nicol, Maurice Malpas, Gary Gillespie, Alex McLeish, Willie Miller, David Narey, Paul McStay, Murdo MacLeod, Iain Durrant, Roy Aitken, Graeme Sharp, Brian McClair, Maurice Johnston, Kevin Gallacher.

Giant media circus rolls into Seoul

SEOUL, Sept. 13. (Reuter): By the time the lights dim on the Olympic Games closing ceremony, the world's top sports photographers will have taken about five million pictures.

The US television network NBC, which has exclusive rights to broadcast the Olympics to North America, will have spent a massive \$425 million.

Millions more will have been spent by other journalists covering the world's biggest sporting spectacle.

A total of 15,000 media and support staff have been accredited to the Seoul Games, outnumbering athletes and officials by 2,000.

Operations
"Without a doubt, this is the world's largest-ever media gathering," said Lee Jae-Hong, deputy commissioner of press operations. "It is nearly double the 8,700 journalists at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics."

The host nation has spent about \$3.1 billion building sporting venues and facilities. Lee said it was impossible to put a final figure on media costs.

The organisers spent \$163 million on a broadcast centre for 10,000 television and radio journalists and rented a huge exhibition hall for 5,000 print journalists.

N. Ireland seek second win

Stapleton may lead Irish attack

BELFAST, Sept. 13. (Reuter): Veteran striker Frank Stapleton, unemployed at club level since leaving Ajax Amsterdam after last season, could make a record-equalling 67th international appearance for Ireland in their World Cup European qualifying Group Six tie against Northern Ireland here tomorrow.

Stapleton, 32, has not played serious soccer since captaining Ireland at the European Championship finals in June.

But Ireland's English coach Jack Charlton has hinted he could use Stapleton's vital experience in what is expected to be an emotionally-charged game.

"I must rely on experienced

players for a match of this importance," said Charlton, who made Irish soccer history this year by guiding Ireland to their first appearance in the finals of a major tournament.

Prefers
"There will be plenty of opportunity for experiments when we play a friendly against Tunisia next month. Obviously, I would much prefer that Frank had been involved in competitive matches in recent weeks, but one could argue that the rest will make him all the more enthusiastic."

The match will be the first between Ireland and Northern Ireland since they met twice in European championship qualifying matches in 1978 and

1979.

Stapleton is the only survivor of the two meetings and would equal injured midfielder Liam Brady's record of 67 caps for Ireland if Charlton, as expected, picks the team which did him proud in West Germany, other than an enforced change in goal.

Goalkeeper Pat Bonner is injured and his place will be taken by experienced reserve Gerry Peyton.

Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham, who has rebuilt the squad which qualified for the World Cup finals in 1982 and 1986, feels his promising mixture of youth and experience can build on their opening 3-0 win over Malta in Belfast last May.

"Our team has the chance of a flier in the group with the way we've arranged the fixtures," he said. "It would be a tremendous psychological boost to take four points from the first two games."

Teams (probable):

Northern Ireland — Allen McKnight, Mal Donaghy, Alan McDonald, John McClelland, Nigel Worthington, Danny Wilson, Michael O'Neill, David McCreery, Bernard McNally, Colin Clarke, Mike Quinn.

Ireland — Gerry Peyton, Chris Morris, Mick McCarthy, Kevin Moran, Chris Hughton, Ray Houghton, Paul McGrath, Ronnie Whelan, Tony Galvin, John Aldridge, Frank Stapleton.

Cram aims for Olympic double

NAGARA, Japan, Sept. 13. (Reuter): Steve Cram believes he can achieve the coveted Olympic middle-distance double in Seoul thanks to his world championship nightmare a year ago.

The Briton said today that the crushing defeat in Rome last year which ended his reign as 1,500 metres world champion, could serve as the perfect tonic.

Encouraged

He said the experience had helped him overcome the mental problems he had encountered in defeat. And he warned his rivals for Olympic 800 and 1,500 metres gold medal: "It'll be different this time round."

European champion Cram said: "Last year helped me. I would get beaten in a few races but I still woke up the next morning and found the world hadn't changed that much."

"I used to get a little bit worked up about things like that, but I can put things in perspective better this year," said the Los

Angeles 1,500 metres Olympic silver medalist.

"I had a few mental problems last year which I find easier to cope with this year. Maybe I needed a kick up the backside. I'm very relaxed about this. I know that whatever happens I'm going to be around next year."

Cram, speaking at the British team's pre-Games training camp, said he had fully recovered from the calf strain he suffered in Rio, Italy, earlier this month.

He said the injury had cost him six days' training but added: "That's no bad thing at this time of the season. It's no great disaster."

"It was better that it happened then than in the third round of the (Olympics) 800. It gave me a warning," he said.

The 27-year-old mile world record-holder singled out Moroccan Said Aouita as his chief rival in both events and said: "If he beats me in the 800 it's going to make my job a lot harder

in the 1,500."

Cram inflicted the last defeat suffered by the Moroccan when he broke the 1,500 metres world record in 1985. Aouita later captured the mark himself.

Cram insisted that winning gold in the first event would not dull his appetite for success in the second.

"If I won the 800, I'd be so fired up for the 1,500 you wouldn't believe it."

Clocked

Asked how long he would continue competing if he won the double, he joked: "As long as it took me to get over the hanger."

Cram, who has clocked the fastest 1,500 and fourth fastest 800 metres times this year, said of his World Championship defeat: "I did not expect to finish eighth. I wasn't as well prepared as I would have liked to have been."

"But I don't think I ever would have won. I was not in shape to do it."

Injured Longo delays departure for S. Korea

SEOUL, Sept. 13. (Reuter): Women's world cycling champion Jeannie Longo of France has delayed her departure for the Seoul Olympics in an attempt to overcome a hip injury, a French team official said today.

Longo, who has won everything cycling has to offer except an Olympic gold, was her favourite to win the women's road race in Seoul. But she fell at the World Championship in Belgium last month and suffered a hairline fracture of a small bone in her hip.

French cycling coach Lucien Bailly, who is in daily contact with phone with Longo, said there was a chance she would be unable to travel to Seoul.

"She's making progress but she still feels pain," he said. "She's put off her departure for two days to continue training and should arrive, if she comes, on September 18."

Breath tests to be used at Olympics



A lab technician prepares urine samples from some of the athletes for testing. (Reuter wirephoto)

SEOUL, Sept. 13. (Reuter): Breath tests to catch out judges who drink will be introduced at the Seoul Olympics, an official said today.

Dr Park Jong-Sei, technical director at the doping control laboratory, said the volleyball federation had asked for line judges to be breathalyzed.

"They do not want them calling out when the ball is in because of drink," Park said.

The judges will be tested before selected volleyball games start.

The International Olympic Committee has also received a number of requests from sport's federations to test for marijuana which could put the IOC at odds with South Korea law if results were not revealed.

Professor Robert Dugal of the IOC medical commission, who disclosed the requests had been made, said the IOC had not considered the local consequences if it kept quiet about marijuana abuse by an athlete.

Smoking marijuana in South Korea is an imprisonable offence carrying a maximum sentence of

10 years.

Although marijuana was not on the IOC list of proscribed drugs, the doping control laboratory would check for it as a result of the requests, Dugal said.

"The results will not be made known to athletes or officials during the Games. A report will be prepared and discussed by the medical commission at a future date," he added.

Spokesmen for the government and the Seoul prosecutors' office declined to comment on the possibility of the IOC breaking South Korean law.

Park said traces of marijuana could be detected in a urine sample up to two weeks after smoking.

"But if someone tests positive it will not mean he smoked marijuana in Korea. He could have arrived the previous day," he said.

Park, who will oversee the testing of over 1,600 samples from athletes during the Games, added that marijuana could be added to the banned list of drugs if its use was found to be significant at the Seoul Olympics.

Soviets and Chinese prepare for team gymnastics clash

SEOUL, Sept. 13. (Reuter): The Soviet Union and China, opponents for the first time at a Summer Olympics, should provide a spectacular duel for the men's team gymnastics title.

The two squads trained in the same group at the Olympic gymnastics hall today, but did not mingle in the well-regimented parades around the various apparatus.

More intent on ironing out laws in their own routines than spying on their rivals, the gymnasts and accompanying team officials kept to themselves in their first public training session.

Dmitry Bilozerchev, reigning world all-round champion, will lead the Soviet Union against the Chinese, whose former world champion Li Ning and compatriot Lou Yun will be aiming for gold medals at their second successive Games.

The 1984 Olympics were China's first major appearance at the Summer Games since their token debut in 1952. Li, hoping to add to the three titles he won last time, has already said he expects stiff competition in Seoul from the Soviet gymnasts who boycotted Los Angeles.

Seoul drops plan to limit opening ceremony

SEOUL, Sept. 13. (UPI): Olympic organisers last night said all athletes will be allowed to march in the opening ceremonies of the Seoul Games, eliminating a possible US boycott of the festivities.

"No athlete, from any country, will be refused the right to participate in the parade," Sohn Wie Soo, a spokesman for the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee, said in a four-paragraph statement.

More than 13,000 athletes — the most in Olympic history — are to compete at the Games, which open with Saturday's dazzling ceremony at the Olympic stadium. An athlete has never been denied the opportunity to attend the opening march, but that tradition appeared in jeopardy with SLOOC considering cuts in the number of participating athletes.

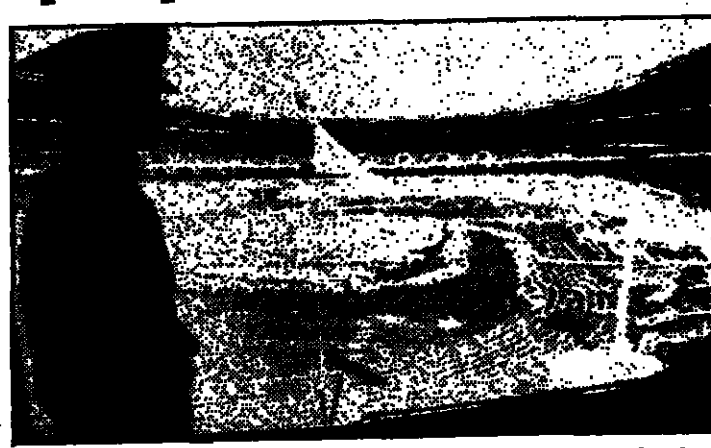
Contained

Mike Moran, information director of the US Olympic Committee, said he learned of the matter last week and subsequent grumblings within his delegation. Some athletes contended either all the American athletes march, or none at all.

"It upholds the tradition," Moran said of the SLOOC decision. "Our athletes can relax. We can calm their fears and they can go back to training."

Moran said the talk of boycott filtering through the US camp represented the positions of individual athletes. However, he said the matter came to a head, the team "might have a unified position."

"I'm glad they took a stand on it, instead of being pansies," Isaac Anderson, a Greco-



A South Korean security guard watches over a rehearsal for the opening ceremonies. (Reuter wirephoto)

Roman wrestler from Albany, New York, said from the athletes' village. "We're behind the USOC. Rumours started about two days ago."

Bryant Johnson, a team handball player from Alexandria, Virginia, said he believed the US athletes would have acted if necessary. However, he was gratified the issue never came to pass.

SLOOC said it wants the opening ceremonies to remain "visually spectacular and as exciting as possible," and hoped to reduce the time needed for the streams of costumed athletes parading around the stadium.

Moran said the dispute had "nothing to do with television."

The organisers said many athletes likely will not attend the opening ceremony for several reasons: they will have yet to arrive in Seoul; they will be based in provincial cities; they will be preparing for their competition.

A US woman swimmer said regardless of the controversy she was not planning to march because of her event Sunday. At the Calgary Winter Olympics, the US Olympic hockey team skipped the opening ceremonies because of a game later that day.

The United States, with more than 600 athletes, has the largest delegation, followed by the Soviet Union, with more than 500. The cuts considered by SLOOC were to have been made on a percentage basis, affecting the 160 nations at the Games.

Similar

It was not clear if other delegations were contemplating actions similar to those of the United States.

According to the by-laws of the International Olympic Committee, an athlete is entitled to march although coaches and officials are sometimes held back. SLOOC confirmed as much in its statement.

Amritraj seeks gold at Games

SEOUL, Sept. 13. (Reuter): Ageing tennis player Vijay Amritraj is putting film stardom to one side in a quest to cap a 20-year career with an Olympic gold medal.

Amritraj, better known these days as a star trek captain in a "star trek" film and a sidekick to James Bond in the movie "Octopussy," is a dark horse for medal honours at the first Olympic tennis competition for 64 years.

At 35, he hopes the flair which helped him twice reach the quarter-finals at Wimbledon and the US Open could give him a chance in a weakened field. West Germany's Boris Becker has pulled out and Sweden's Mats Wilander, the US Open champion, has told reporters he may have to withdraw because of a leg injury.

"For me, it is a great way to finish a tennis career, though I don't intend to stop immediately," said the Indian, who devotes more time to a film production company he runs in Los Angeles.

Ranked

"Acting is a hobby that lets me stay loose," said Amritraj, non-playing captain of the Indian team which lost to Sweden in Davis Cup final last year.

Amritraj was once ranked 13th in the world when Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors were at their peak. Although he never lifted a major title, he won admirers for his gentlemanly behaviour on court.

At Seoul, he will also partner elder brother Anand in the doubles and share a room with him in the village.

"The Olympics is really a trip back in memory for me... to the days 20 years ago when I used to room with my brother while playing junior tournaments in the United States," he said.

"There was little money those days and we actually had to play well in the day to eat at night. It was difficult making ends meet."

Sheikh Fahd hits out at tennis professionals

SEOUL, Sept. 13. (Reuter): The imminent arrival of professional players on the Seoul Olympic tennis courts is causing ripples in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) despite an outward show of calm.

Publicly, IOC members are keen to appear united in support of their decision to allow professionals, many of them extremely wealthy, to compete with amateurs when tennis returns to the Olympic programme next Tuesday after a 64-year absence. But individually some express the hope that the idea — an experiment in Seoul — will be scrapped before the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

Amateurs

"It is unfair," Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, president of the Olympic Council of Asia and Kuwait's IOC delegate said today. "Professionals have their own places to practise and compete. But now there is no place for amateurs."

"This will really take all sports events into commercialism," he added. "We will never allow any professionals to come to the Asian Games."

There was no direct opposition to the proposal to allow professionals when it was submitted to the IOC by West German member Willi Daume last year, although the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) had earlier opposed it.

But opponents who were silent then are swift to point out that the professionals are on trial this month.

Discuss

"We have called it an experiment," said East German IOC delegate Guenther Beinz. "Afterwards we will discuss it at the IOC meeting in Puerto Rico in 1989."

Heinz aligned himself with the opponents. "I am not for professionals. I think that the Olympic sports should be free of professionals, that is in accordance with the Olympic idea."

But India's Ashwini Kumar cited the same Olympic ideals in support of the argument for professionals. "According to (modern Olympic founder) Coubertin the elite should be admitted," he said. "We have to finish the sham of hypocrisy where you can be an amateur and accept money."

Paid

In recent years rules have been relaxed to allow track-and-field athletes to be paid to compete in events other than the Olympics.

The financial arguments are quoted by Panama's Virgilio de Leon, another opponent of opening the Olympics to professionals. "It is not a good mix between the athletes who gain money and those who do not win any money," he said.

Tennis disappeared from the Olympic list after a row between the IOC and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) over the organisation of the sport at the 1924 Games.

Its return was supported by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, a tennis fan.

Amritraj said the form of the professionals would also depend on how well they adjusted to life in the athletes' village.

"Here, it is not the same as staying in a luxury hotel. You have specific timings for meals and other kinds of restrictions which you don't come across on the circuit," Amritraj said.



Vijay Amritraj



Sign and flag bearers for the American and Soviet teams during the opening ceremonies seen together at the rehearsal. (Reuter wirephoto)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Greenidge released

LONDON, Sept 13, (Reuters): West Indian Test opener Gordon Greenidge has been released by English County Cricket Championship club Hampshire after 21 years. Barbados-born Greenidge, 37, joined Hampshire as a 16-year-old schoolboy in 1967 and scored 19,840 runs in 275 matches at an average of 45.40, hitting 98 centuries with 100 scores of 50 or more. His highest score was 259 against Sussex.

World champion

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 13, (Reuters): South Africa's sole world boxing champion, junior lightweight Brian Mitchell, said yesterday he was considering leaving the country to fight overseas.

Soviet sports

MOSCOW, Sept 13, (UPI): The Soviet Finance Ministry has issued an order directing that the hard currency salaries of Soviet football players contracted out to foreign clubs should be no higher than that of an embassy administration officer but no lower than that of a janitor, a Soviet sports administrator says.

Top jockey

LONDON, Sept 13, (Reuters): Top jockey Pat Eddery will ride Indian Rose in next month's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp, it was confirmed today.

Favre recalled

GENEVA, Sept 13, (Reuters): National coach Daniel Jeandupeux today recalled experienced midfielder Lucien Favre to his 22-man squad for Switzerland's opening World Cup soccer qualifier against Luxembourg next week.

Key draws

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 13, (Reuters): Guarani of Brazil and Nacional of Uruguay played key draws in their away matches last week in the second stage of the South American Libertadores of America Soccer Cup. While Guarani held San Lorenzo de Almagro of Argentina to a 1-1 draw in Buenos Aires, Nacional did likewise in Santiago, against Universidad Catolica.

Judo expert

SAN SALVADOR, Sept 13, (Reuters): Judo expert Fredy Torres, a left-wing activist who says he was tortured by police three months ago, said yesterday he will be representing the people not the government of El Salvador at the Olympic Games.

Ian Woosnam

CARDIFF, Sept 13, (Reuters): Ian Woosnam, fresh from his £50,000 success in the European Open golf tournament at Sunningdale on Sunday, descended yesterday to the more modest Welsh Professional Championship, top prize £5,000. After the first of only two rounds Woosnam was on 71, one-over-par and two strokes behind leader Kevin Jones.

Speed record

MARINA DEL REY, California, Sept 13, (AP): Bob Nord-skog of Van Nuys, California, set a powerboat speed record yesterday, travelling from San Francisco to Marina Del Rey, Calif., in 5 hours, 57 minutes and 22 seconds.

MIDDLESEX HOLD KENT TO DRAW

Worcestershire move to the top

LONDON, Sept 13, (Reuters): Kent surrendered top spot to new favourites Worcestershire in the English County Cricket Championship yesterday when they could only draw with Middlesex despite a blaze of hitting at Lord's.

On the last day of their four-day encounter, Kent were left a near impossible target of 230 in 29 overs — nearly eight an over.

Chase
They slugged their way to 128 for eight in the first 18 before they gave up the chase leaving the last two pairs to block out the final 11 overs, ending on 129 for nine.

Worcester, meanwhile, romped to a 114 run success over Gloucestershire and now lead the table by one point from Kent with Essex, innings winners over Leicestershire on Sunday, another four points behind.

So the stage is set for an exciting three-sided finale with Worcestershire the favourites.

In the final round of matches starting today, they were home to bottom club Glamorgan, while Kent entertained fourth-placed Surrey and Essex received mid-table Northamptonshire.

Kent's aggression against Angus Fraser proved disastrous.



Middlesex's John Carr hits a Penn delivery.

the paceman taking five for 27 in eight overs, helped by two fine catches on the boundary by Roland Butcher.

Fraser had earlier denied Kent a quick breakthrough after Mike Gatting had been dismissed off the day's first delivery.

The former England captain was bowled by Chris Penn, whose seven for 70 was a career best, before Paul Downton (59) shared stands of 52 with John

Emburey and 46 for the last wicket with Phil Tufnell.

Kent were further frustrated by two afternoon showers which cut 20 overs from the day's ration.

Worcester, already crowned Sunday League champions meet Lancashire in the Refugee Assurance Cup final this weekend, and are thus on course for a famous treble.

Only the threat of rain worried

them yesterday as Gloucestershire, set 342 to win, were bowled out for 227. Spinner Richard Illingworth finished with five for 63 and career-best match figures of 10 for 132.

"Every game has been like a Cup final for us just lately," admitted captain Phil Neale. "But we're not complaining and it promises to be a very exciting end to the season."

Results

At Bristol: Worcestershire beat Gloucestershire by 114 runs. Worcestershire 404 in 141.3 overs and 199. Gloucestershire 262 in 90.1 overs and 227 (K. Curran 57, R. Russell 41, R. Illingworth five for 63). Gloucestershire six points, Worcestershire 23.

At Cardiff: Hampshire beat Glamorgan by two wickets. Glamorgan 259 in 104 overs and 234. Hampshire 126 in 53.1 overs and 370 for eight (J. Aspin 54 not out). Hampshire 19 points, Glamorgan seven.

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire beat Derbyshire by an innings and 41 runs. Derbyshire 347 in 122 overs and 226 (R. Sharma 41, F. Stephenson four for 76, K. Evans three for 22). Nottinghamshire 22 points, Derbyshire four.

At Scarborough: Yorkshire v Northamptonshire — match drawn. Yorkshire 120 in 104 overs and 397 for six (M. Moxon 191, D. Byas 72,

R. Blakey 45 not out, P. Robinson three for 39). Northamptonshire 464 in 151.1 overs. Yorkshire five points, Northamptonshire seven.

At Lord's: Middlesex v Kent — match drawn. Middlesex 290 in 91.3 overs and 351 (P. Downton 59 not out, C. Penn seven for 70). Kent 412 in 143.5 overs and 129 for nine (A. Fraser five for 27, J. Emburey three for 42). Middlesex five points, Kent seven.

At Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Somerset — match drawn. Somerset 372 in 138.2 overs and 185 for six declared. Warwickshire 257 in 107.3 overs and 290 for nine (T. Lloyd 69, A. Mole 64, G. Small 56 not out, D. Thorne 54, A. Jones three for 45, G. Rose three for 56). Warwickshire four points, Somerset six.

Standings

English County Championship cricket table after matches yesterday (tabulated: played, won, lost, drawn, batting, bowling, points):

Worcester	21	9	3	9	51	71	266
Kent	21	9	5	7	53	68	265
Essex	21	8	5	8	58	67	261
Surrey	21	7	4	10	57	68	237
Nottingham	21	8	7	6	31	69	234
Warwick	22	6	8	8	48	74	218
Middlesex	22	7	3	12	49	54	215
Leicestershire	22	6	3	13	36	63	215
Lancashire	21	6	7	8	37	66	207
Somerset	21	5	5	11	45	62	195
Northants	21	5	6	10	44	68	192
Gloucestershire	21	5	7	9	49	57	186
Derbyshire	21	4	3	14	49	53	166
Yorkshire	21	3	6	12	44	61	153
Sussex	21	3	10	8	34	63	145
Hampshire	21	3	12	6	31	65	144
Glamorgan	21	1	7	13	40	51	107

TCCB should have considered our feelings: Alva

Adopt common policy, ICC told

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Sept 13, (Agencies): India's decision to ban English cricketers who have played in South Africa gives a boost to the West Indies efforts to have the International Cricket Conference adopt a common policy on the issue. Clyde Walcott, president of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control says.

The Indian government announced Friday it would refuse entry visas to eight players on the English team who had toured South Africa, effectively putting an end to an 11-week tour due to start in December.

"If the objective of the ICC is to maintain unity in international cricket, then it must adopt a common policy on this matter, which has dogged not only cricket but all international sport for so long," Walcott said.

Issue
"I believe the decision of the Indian government strengthens that view. It is an issue that goes deeper than just cricket," he said on Sunday.

The West Indies have presented a resolution before the ICC that calls for mandatory refusal of entry to member countries of players who have played in South Africa and their replacement by their national board.

Australia has proposed an alternative motion that would make such replacement voluntary.

Both proposals will be discussed and put to the vote at a special ICC meeting in London in January.

England's two previous tours of the West Indies, in 1981 and 1986, were affected by action against players with South

African connections.

The 1981 Test in Guyana was cancelled when the government deported fast bowler Robin Jackman, who had played and now lives in South Africa.

Guyana again refused to accept the English team in 1986 because of the inclusion of players who had participated in a rebel tour of South Africa four years earlier. Among them was Graham Gooch, who announced shortly after being named captain of the current England team for India that he had signed another contract to play in South Africa.

Both those tours continued as they were sanctioned by the other governments under the terms of the Genuclear agreement.

The English team is scheduled to tour the West Indies again in 1990, but the West Indies board has already informed the English Test and County Cricket Board that it cannot host it under the same circumstances as 1986.

Security
On that tour it lost an estimated \$500,000 because of increased security costs and boycotts organised by anti tour groups.

Walcott said the West Indies resolution at the ICC specifically aims to prevent the breakup of international cricket.

"It should now be clear that the ICC itself has to take action on this question," Walcott said.

The West Indies cricket board has as its policy the disqualification for life from playing in the regional team of any player who visits South Africa. However, players from other countries have been banned only for periods of up to three years.

The fact that West Indians are banned for life while players from other countries are barred for short periods and have been allowed to play in the Caribbean in the past has been a sore point.

Meanwhile, Indian Sports Minister Margaret Alva said in Seoul today that English cricket authorities "should have kept our feelings in mind" when they picked the party to tour India later this year.

Alva, who confirmed that Gooch and seven teammates would be barred from entering India because of their links with South Africa, said: "I do not know whether the tour is on or off."

"That is up to the TCCB (English Test and County Cricket Board) and we cannot advise them on who they should pick."

"Everyone knows India's stand on apartheid and the TCCB should have kept our feelings in mind when they picked the side," Alva, in Seoul to help New Delhi's bid for the 1994 Commonwealth Games, said.

India is a leading campaigner in the Non-Aligned Movement against Pretoria's apartheid policies and joined a Third World boycott of the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh over this issue.

In a telex to the TCCB yesterday, the Indian Cricket Board indicated that the tour would be in jeopardy unless England agreed to substitute the eight with players who had no links with South Africa.

The telex said that a final decision on the tour would be taken by the board at their

annual meeting on Sept 24 and 25.

Alva said she did not expect the stand on Gooch and his teammates — vice-captain John Emburey, Graham Dilley, Kim Barnett, Allan Lamb, Robin Smith, Tim Robinson and Rob Bailey — to affect her country's relations with Britain or New Delhi's chances of hosting the Commonwealth Games.

The Indian capital is locked in a three-way contest for the Games with Cardiff and Victoria, British Columbia. The venue will be chosen on Friday and India's refusal to allow Gooch and the seven others into the country could jeopardise its bid to stage the Games.

Problem

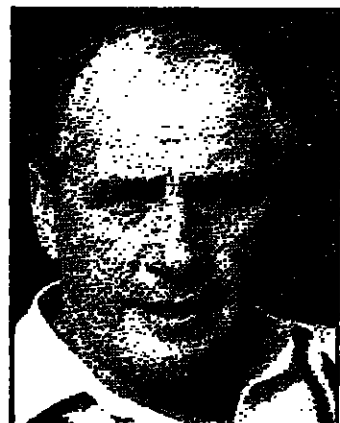
Alva discounted this possibility, saying: "It is not political interference in sport because the sporting and Olympic ideal is equality and South Africa's apartheid policy denies that to the blacks."

She said her government was enforcing its policy on apartheid by refusing visas to the eight in a squad of 16, named for the 11-week tour starting in December.

Alva also blamed the International Cricket Conference (ICC) for the problem over the tour, saying the confusion over eligibility of players with South African links was caused by its postponement of a decision on the issue.

"We allowed them (Gooch and other players) to come to India for the World Cup last year, but believed that the ICC was going to make a decision soon afterwards. They have still not done so."

Gifford quits county cricket after 28 years



Norman Gifford

LONDON, Sept 13, (Reuters): Former England spin bowler Norman Gifford closed his 28-year-career in county cricket with a wicket for Warwickshire on the last day of their match against Somerset yesterday.

The 48-year-old left arm spinner made Vic Marks the last of his 2,068 first class victims, a list which began when he bowled Arthur Phibbey of Kent at Tunbridge Wells in 1960.

Gifford's last match before his retirement produced a typically economical performance — 68.1 overs, 12 maidens, 151 runs and three wickets. He played 15 times for England from 1964-73.

Later, batting for the final time for Warwickshire he was called on to keep out the last three balls from Marks to earn a draw.

Gifford saved the match after a thrilling Warwickshire chase for a target of 301 in 68 overs. They finished 11 short at 290 for nine despite a valiant effort by Gladstone Small, who thrashed three sixes and four fours in an unbeaten 56 off 42 balls.

Yankees slip back in AL East race

NEW YORK, Sept 13, (AP): Chaddell Washington struck out to end a furious ninth-inning rally last night as the Cleveland Indians held off the New York Yankees 8-6.

The Yankees slipped 4 1-2 games behind the American League East-leading Boston Red Sox, which beat Baltimore 6-1. Detroit, winning for just the fourth time in 21 tries, defeated Toronto 6-5 and remained 3 1-2 behind the Red Sox.

Trailing 8-1, the Yankees rallied for five runs in the ninth on a three-run homer by Jack Clark and solo homers by Luis Aguayo and Joel Skinner.

Rafael Santana and Rickey Henderson singled with two outs, bringing up Washington.

On Friday night, Washington homered in the ninth to beat Detroit. But this time Cleveland relief ace Doug Jones fanned Washington for his 33rd save.

In other AL games, Seattle beat Minnesota 3-1 and Milwaukee, trying to cling close to the AL East, lost when Chicago scored twice in the bottom of the ninth for a 2-1 victory. The loss dropped the Brewers 5 1-2 games behind Boston.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 1

Bruce Hurst won his 17th game and Ellis Burks got three hits and scored three runs as Boston beat Baltimore.

Hurst, 17-5, is 1-1 in games following Red Sox losses. He allowed one run in 6 2-3 innings and won for the eighth time in nine decisions.

Tigers 6, Blue Jays 5

Chet Lemon hit a three-run homer and scored the tie-breaking run in the eighth inning on Darrell Evans' pinch-single as Detroit won at Toronto.

Lemon's 12th homer gave the Tigers a 4-1 lead in the sixth. Pat Borders' two-run triple keyed Toronto's three-run rally in the seventh that made it 4-4.

Lemon drew a leadoff walk in the eighth from Tom Henke, 3-4, and advanced on a sacrifice. Evans followed with his single, and Fred Lynn hit his 21st homer in the ninth.

White Sox 2, Brewers 1

Mike Diaz and pinch hitter

Phillips 5, Cubs 1

Bob Demler's run-scoring single snapped a seventh-inning tie and rookie Ron Jones drove in three runs as Philadelphia sent visiting Chicago to its fifth straight loss.

Don Carman, 10-11, allowed four hits in seven innings to break a personal six-game losing streak and Kent Tekulve finished for his fourth save.

Expos 14, Cardinals 2
Nelson Santovenia drove in five runs and Rex Hudler three more as Montreal snapped St. Louis' seven-game winning streak.

The Expos set a season-high for runs and broke out of a week-end scoring drought that saw them go 12-2-3 innings without a run while being shut out twice in three games by New York at Olympic stadium.

degree Fahrenheit (36.6-degree Celsius) weather.

On the final play of the first half, for example, the Cards passed up a 42-yard field goal attempt. Instead, kicker Al Del Greco took a flip from holder Cliff Stoudt and ran for just eight of the 25 yards he needed.

Then the first two drives of the second half were ended by mistakes.

The first was an illegal formation penalty that cancelled a 34-yard pass completion to the Dallas nose. On the next series, they drove 49 yards to the Dallas 30 before Ed "Too Tall" Jones stripped rookie Tony Jordan of the ball and recovered at the 27.

The final mistake came with 1:50 left in the game, when Phoenix's Reggie Phillips was called for interference, preventing the Cardinals from getting the ball one last time.

The tournament, to be held under the patronage of the Electricity & Water Minister Homoud Al Kogobah, had been earlier on scheduled for September 20.

This decision was taken by the organising committee on Monday. The tournament will be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel and tennis courts.

Committee

The following persons were also appointed to the technical committee: Abdul Rida Al Gharib — head of the committee; Hussain Abdullah — chief umpire; Walid Salah — deputy head of the committee; Abbas Ali Al Basiri and Mubarak Abdul Rida Ali — members and Saud Al Fadhli — general secretary and head of the information committee.

All government and private companies have been invited to take part in the event. Registration for the event can be done at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel and the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

Griffith-Joyner relieved record will stand

NAGARA, Japan, Sept 13, (Reuters): Florence Griffith-Joyner whooped with joy today when she learned that her world record-breaking 100 metres run at the US Olympics trials two months ago would stand.

The American spoke of her "great relief" when told that Swiss timing company Omega had confirmed its wind-measuring equipment was working when she clocked 10.49 seconds in Indianapolis in July to top 0.27 of a second off the world mark.

Griffith-Joyner said there had been doubt surrounding her time ever since the windswept meeting.

Pressure

"The sceptics started saying it wasn't that fast and that the equipment had failed right after the meeting," she said.

"But I wasn't under pressure because I knew it was that fast and I know I can run that fast again — maybe even better."

Under athletics rules, performances in the two short sprints, the high hurdles, long jump and triple jump, are considered for record purposes only if the following wind speed is below two metres per second.

Griffith-Joyner, whose best before July was 10.89, set her world record in the qualifying heats and went on to run 10.70 in the semifinal and 10.61 in the final to record the three fastest women's 100 metres times.



Griffith-Joyner (left) being congratulated by a team-mate after setting the record at US trials.

A fourth performance of 10.0 was ruled ineligible as the second fastest time because the wind was strong.

Husband and coach Al Joyner, the 1984 Olympic triple jump champion, said: "I knew

the equipment was working fine. I was by the long jump runway watching a guy jump as she ran. I looked at the wind speed and it said nil. The wind wasn't blowing."

"The reason she ran 10.70 in

the semifinals was because she had beaten the gun and had to stay in her blocks."

Omega confirmed from Switzerland yesterday that their equipment had been functioning during the race.

"The wind-measuring instrument operated normally," said Francois Jeandrevin, the company's technical director. "In the race itself the wind speed parallel to the track was measured at precisely 0.048866 metres per second."

Griffith-Joyner's Indianapolis performance bettered compatriot Evelyn Ashford's four-year-old world record of 10.76.

Now Griffith-Joyner, renowned equally for her speed on the track and flair for fashion, expects her Olympic dream to have a fairly tale ending.

Griffith-Joyner said today she had been writing children's stories for the past four years.

"I never write a story without a happy ending," she said at the US team's training camp on the outskirts of Tokyo.

"I believe in God and you can only have happy endings if you believe in Him."

"I feel very confident about the Olympic Games and that all my stories will have happy endings."

The American has written a series of books about a seven-year-old mischievous boy called "Barry Bam Bam."

Griffith-Joyner, who will chase gold in the 100, 200 and 4x100 metres relay, said she took up writing after repeatedly being asked to make up bedtime stories by her 30 nieces and nephews.

"I've 10 of them so far but I haven't done the illustrations yet," she said.

Griffith-Joyner is noted for her dress sense, wearing a series of self-designed costumes including a full-length leotard with one leg left bare.

"I haven't tried to change anything. I just don't like standard uniforms," she said.

"I think they're rather boring and dull and I like bright colours. The outfits will draw attention but it doesn't bother me. It doesn't take away from my performances."

The multi-talented American is in hot demand. Her agent Gordon Baskin said he handled up to 70 calls a day on her behalf.

Presented

"She transcends the barriers of athletics," he said.

"If every deal was made that was presented she could become a millionaire. But we're selective. There will be no business deals for her before the Olympics."

Griffith-Joyner leaves for Seoul in two days, the hard work of her preparation finished.

Griffith-Joyner refuses to assess her rivals. "I have to concentrate on myself and not worry about anybody else," she said.



Mohammed Shahzad



Asad Malik

Prince defeat Arrows in Brud Trophy match

PRINCE Cricket Club scored a 14-run victory over Flying Arrows Cricket Club in a Brud Trophy match, organised by Gulf Cricket League, at the GCL ground on Friday.

Prince, after winning the toss, opted to bat but lost their opener Mujahid Butt with the score only five. Prince lost two more quick wickets before Mohammed Saleem and Asad Malik put on 70 quick runs.